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THE
MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

WITH
NOTES AND QUERIES

Extra Number—No. 13

MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL ELBERT

Charles C. Jones, Jr.

THE *RIGHT FLANKER*

Anon.

WILLIAM ABBATT

141 EAST 25TH STREET

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NEW YORK

1911

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MAJOR-GENERAL SAMUEL ELBERT

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Wm. Kemp Capt. 9th La. Cavalry

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W. Z. Glaspell
1st Lt. C. S. A.

THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF THE
HONORABLE
MAJOR GEN. SAMUEL ELBERT
OF GEORGIA

BY
CHARLES C. JONES, JR., LL.D.

PRIVATELY PRINTED
The Riverside Press, Cambridge
1887

NEW YORK
Reprinted
WILLIAM ABBATT
1911

(Being Extra No. 13 of THE MAGAZINE OF HISTORY with Notes and Queries)

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(Original Dedication)

TO THE
HONORABLE GENERAL HENRY R. JACKSON,
Of Savannah, Georgia,
PRESIDENT OF THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
This Sketch
IS CORDIALLY INSCRIBED.

NOTE

As in the case of Major John Habersham (see No. 7 of this series), I am happy to be able to re-publish a full and interesting account of one of the minor figures of our Revolution, from the pen of the same writer, the late Charles C. Jones, Jr., of Augusta, Georgia.

EDITOR.

MAJOR-GENERAL SAMUEL ELBERT

Responding to the flattering invitation extended by this Society,¹ I come to-night to recall the image of one who a century ago was the honored chief magistrate of this commonwealth—who acted a conspicuous part in our colonial struggle for independence—who was numbered among the earliest and the most zealous “Sons of Liberty”—whose reputation, both civil and military, was free from all alloy—who bore himself on every occasion as a courageous man and a worthy citizen—who sleeps in an unmarked grave within cannon-range of this Hall in which we are now assembled to render tribute to his virtues—and of whom, so far as our information extends, we possess no portrait² save such as his own brave hand has painted on the historic canvas.

To the Continental Army Georgia furnished only two officers who attained the rank of Brigadier-General. They were Lachlan McIntosh and Samuel Elbert. Both were excellent soldiers, sterling patriots, and influential citizens. Their services alike in peace and in war were held in high repute. It is of the latter of them that we would speak.

Born in the province of South Carolina seven years after Oglethorpe had planted his colony upon Yamacraw Bluff, and of English parentage, his youth was spent in the parish of Prince William, where his father, a Baptist clergyman, had charge of a congre-

¹ The address was delivered in Hodgson Hall, the home of the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.

² There is no portrait of Colonel Samuel Elbert in existence. (Mr. O. T. Ashmore, Corr. Secy. of the Georgia Hist. Socy., to the Editor.)

gation. Of the early life of Samuel Elbert but little is known. While still a lad he was deprived by death of both his parents. In quest of employment he repaired to Savannah, in Georgia, where his steady habits, energy, honesty and upright conduct soon commended him to general favor. There, entering upon a commercial life, by his integrity and devotion to business he won the confidence and secured preferment at the hands of those with whom he was associated. For several years antecedent to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War he was recognized as a leading and prosperous merchant in the commercial metropolis of the province. With the Indians his trade relations were extensive. His marriage with Miss Elizabeth Rae confirmed his social position and influence. While still a young man he manifested a decided taste for military affairs; and during the later years of Governor Wright's administration held a captain's commission in a company of Grenadiers.

Savannah was then the capital of Georgia, and the home of considerable wealth and refinement. The only town which aspired to a rivalry with it for the trade of the colony was Sunbury, situated near the mouth of Midway River. When the disagreements between England and her American colonies became serious, and public sentiment was divided, Captain Elbert promptly enrolled himself among the "Sons of Liberty." Of the Council of Safety which convened on the 22nd of June, 1775, and was composed of such influential patriots as Noble W. Jones, Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, William Ewen, Joseph Clay, Edward Telfair, George Walton and Joseph Habersham, he was an efficient member. By the action of this body was Georgia placed in correspondence with the Continental Congress and with the Councils of Safety of the other revolting provinces. Then was a union flag defiantly hoisted upon a liberty pole. Then were thirteen patriotic toasts proposed, and responded to by salutes from two field-pieces and by martial music. Then were resolutions adopted pledging Georgia to the common cause of American liberty.

To the Provincial Congress, which assembled in Savannah on the 4th of July in the same year, Captain Elbert was a delegate. This was Georgia's first secession convention. It committed the province to positive sympathy and confederated alliance with the twelve sister American colonies; practically annulled within her limits the operation of the objectionable acts of Parliament; questioned the supremacy of British rule, and inaugurated measures intended to accomplish the independence of the plantation and its erection into the dignity of a State. By that Congress was Samuel Elbert chosen a member of the Council of Safety charged with the conduct of public affairs and empowered to provide for the common defense. The organization of the militia enlisted the liveliest interest, and the most potent measures at command were adopted by this Council to enroll, officer, and equip the arms-bearing population of the province.¹ All vessels which would engage to import war materials were declared exempt from the penalties of the non-importation agreement, and Samuel Elbert, Edward Telfair, and Joseph Habersham were appointed a committee to supply Georgia with arms and ammunition. They were authorized to contract for the purchase of four hundred muskets with bayonets, twenty thousand pounds of gunpowder, and sixty thousand pounds of cannon-balls, bullets, bar-lead, grape and swan shot. The battalion raised under the resolution of the Continental Congress for the protection of Georgia was organized on the 7th of January, 1776, by the enrollment of eight companies, fully officered, and by the appointment of Lachlan McIntosh as Colonel, Samuel Elbert as Lieutenant-Colonel, and Joseph Habersham as Major. From this time until the conclusion of the Revolutionary War Colonel Elbert was actively engaged in the military service of the struggling confederacy.

¹ A committee, consisting of Stephen Drayton, Samuel Elbert, Dr. Nathan Brownson, and Peter Tarlin, was raised and commissioned to prepare a report upon the militia of the province, with such suggestions as might be deemed proper for its efficient organization.

On the 19th of May, 1776, Major Joseph Habersham married Miss Isabella Rae,—a sister-in-law of Colonel Elbert. This cemented a friendship already existing between that officer and Major Habersham's younger brother—Lieutenant John Habersham—who was soon announced as Brigade-Major of the Georgia forces upon the Continental establishment. During their joint service in Georgia these officers were at all times associated upon terms of the closest intimacy, and together shared the common peril.

The first passage at arms in Georgia between the King's soldiers and the rebels occurred at Savannah, early in March, 1776. Only a little while before, Governor Wright, escaping from confinement, sought and found refuge on board the armed ship *Scarborough*—Captain Barclay,—lying in Tybee roadstead. Influenced by the representations of the fugitive governor, and anxious to procure supplies for their troops, Captain Barclay and Major Grant resolved to obtain by force what their negotiations had failed to secure. Many vessels laden with rice were then at anchor near the Savannah wharves and along the opposite side of the river. So unsettled was the political situation that they were forbidden by the Council of Safety to proceed to sea. Purposing the capture of these vessels and their cargoes, Captain Barclay—attended by his fleet, and accompanied by Majors Maitland and Grant in command of between two and three hundred light infantry and marines conveyed in two transport ships—ascended the Savannah River and actually took possession of some of them. Without recounting the details of the affair, suffice it to say that the designs of the enemy were thwarted mainly through the vigilance of Colonel McIntosh, supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Elbert and Major Habersham. In obedience to orders issued by the Council of Safety, many of these rice-laden vessels were burnt, and the enemy was kept at bay by a battery of three four-pounder guns planted on Yamacraw Bluff and by a force of three hundred men there embodied.

St. Augustine,—the chief town of Florida—with its garrison of British troops, Indians, and Loyalists, was a thorn in the side of Georgia. Thence were projected marauding parties which time and again invaded the southern portions of the province, robbing and murdering the inhabitants. After the successful defense of the fort on Sullivan's Island, General Charles Lee conceived the idea of subjugating East Florida. To that end he ordered a concentration of the forces of South Carolina and Georgia. Their advance, however, was countermanded at Sunbury.

Colonel Lachlan McIntosh's promotion to the grade of Brigadier-General and his assignment to the command of all the Georgia troops serving on the Continental establishment, gave great offense to Button Gwinnett, who had been an avowed candidate for that position. Elected on the 4th of March, 1777, by the Council of Safety, President and Commander-in-Chief of Georgia, to serve as such until a governor could be regularly chosen in accordance with constitutional provisions, he determined to signalize his administration by an expedition against St. Augustine. The project was pleasing to the public, and an ambitious desire to overrun East Florida and annex it to Georgia took firm possession of the breast of the acting governor. Instead of entrusting the command of this expedition to General McIntosh, who, as the ranking military officer of the forces present for the protection of Georgia, was in all fairness and in accordance with established usage entitled to expect and to claim it, Gwinnett, wishing to mortify his successful competitor for the honor of which we have spoken, and manifestly intending to heap an affront upon him, publicly announced that he would in person direct the army of occupation. General McIntosh was not permitted even to accompany the expedition. Saw-pit Bluff—twelve miles from the mouth of the river St. John—was designated as the place, and the 12th of May as the time, for the rendezvous of the forces which were to participate

in the contemplated subjugation of East Florida. Colonel Baker, with the Georgia militia, was directed to march by land, while Colonel Elbert was ordered to conduct the Continental troops by water to the point indicated. Near Nassau River the former officer was met and routed by Colonels Brown and McGirth. Colonel Elbert was sore perplexed upon finding that he was placed in command of the Continental forces detailed for this expedition, to the exclusion of General McIntosh, who as his superior officer was entitled to that distinction. He was also concerned at the abnormal situation consequent upon orders promulgated by President Gwinnett, by which he was required to report directly to and receive his instructions from the President and Council. On the 24th of April he addressed an official communication¹ to General McIntosh, advising him of the disagreeable and unsatisfactory plight in which he found himself, and expressing his regrets that his orders did not come through his commanding general. He even ventured to call the attention of the President and Council to this irregularity. Gwinnett, however, controlled that body: and being of an imperious will and implacable in his hate, continued to supplant General McIntosh and to subject him to at least apparent humiliation.

Having advanced as far south as the north end of Amelia Island, —having there been informed of the defeat of Colonel Baker—finding the enemy in force and on the alert—perceiving that a hot sun and exposure were causing much sickness in his command—well knowing that his provisions were being rapidly consumed and seeing small prospect of forcing the coast-guard and obtaining a fresh supply from the country adjacent to the mouth of the St. John—and advised that war-vessels were standing on and off waiting to intercept his galleys should they attempt to approach the point of rendezvous, Colonel Elbert wisely resolved to give over

¹ See MS. Order Book of Colonel Elbert.

his purpose and retire to Frederica. Thence he returned to Savannah. Thus ended an expedition conceived in ambition and jealousy, planned without due consideration, marred in its execution and utterly without benefit in its results.

Gwinnett was a candidate for the office of Governor of Georgia. John Adam Treutlen opposed him, and was elected by a handsome majority. McIntosh was numbered among his ardent supporters. He did not hesitate openly to avow his gratification at Treutlen's success. In fact he publicly denounced Gwinnett in unmeasured terms. The quarrel between these gentlemen culminated on the 15th of May, when Gwinnett challenged McIntosh to mortal combat. They met the next morning at sunrise within the present limits of the city of Savannah. Pistol shots were exchanged at the short distance of twelve feet. Both were wounded in the thigh,—McIntosh dangerously, and Gwinnett fatally. The former was confined to his couch for some time, and the latter, after lingering for twelve days, died of his hurt. So intense was the excitement caused by this duel and the death of Gwinnett that General McIntosh, after indictment, trial and acquittal, acting under the advice of friends, left Georgia for a season. Repairing to the headquarters of General Washington, he was by him assigned to duty in the western districts of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Upon the departure of General McIntosh Colonel Elbert succeeded to the command of the Continental forces in Georgia. His headquarters were at Savannah, although he was frequently on the southern frontier of the State, which was harassed by incursions of the enemy issuing from Florida. Recruiting officers experienced much difficulty in filling the ranks of companies attached to the battalions authorized by Congress. The bounty and pay allowed by the general government for a year's service did not equal the sum offered by a militiaman for a substitute to take his place for only three months. Many, disposed to enter the army, preferred enlistment for a short term with the militia, where they

could act pretty much as they pleased and remain near their homes, to being mustered into the regular service for a period of three years, when they would be subjected to strict discipline and find themselves liable to duty in distant fields. The paper currency, too, which at first was accepted at par in defrayal of all expenses, was now rapidly depreciating in value.

In April, 1778, General Robert Howe, then in command of the Southern Department and having his headquarters at Savannah, was informed that General Prevost was about to set out from Florida to invade Georgia. To repel this anticipated incursion and thereafter to move forward for the subjugation of East Florida, Governor Houstoun and General Howe resolved upon the immediate mobilization of the military strength of the State. Of the Georgia militia the governor proposed to take personal command. When summoned to the field they did not aggregate more than three hundred and fifty men, and many of them were poorly armed and badly disciplined. The Continental forces within the limits of the State, numbering about five hundred and fifty, were to be led by Colonel Elbert. They were to be supplemented by two hundred and fifty Continental infantrymen and thirty artillerymen with two field-pieces, drawn from South Carolina and commanded by Colonel Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. The Carolina militia, under Colonels Bull and Williamson, were ordered to rendezvous at Purrysburg, on the Savannah River. Fort Howe, on the Altamaha, was selected as the place of concentration.

On the 14th of April Colonel Elbert reached that point with his command. The next day, learning that several of the enemy's vessels were lying at and near Frederica, he detailed three hundred men, exclusive of officers, with fifty rounds of ammunition and six days' rations apiece, and with no baggage except their blankets, and a detachment of artillerymen with two field-pieces, to proceed to Darien, and there, going on board the galleys, to advance to Pike's Bluff, distant rather more than a mile from Fred-

erica.¹ This expedition the colonel conducted in person. What subsequently transpired may best be told in the language of Colonel Elbert, who in a letter to General Howe communicated the following interesting details of a gallant exploit:—

“FREDERICA, *April 19th, 1778.*

DEAR GENERAL,—I have the happiness to inform you, that about 10 o'clock this forenoon the brigantine *Hinchinbrooke*, the sloop *Rebecca* and a prize brig, all struck the British tyrant's colors and surrendered to the American Arms.

Having received intelligence that the above vessels were at this place, I put about three hundred men, by detachment from the troops under my command at Fort Howe, on board the three galleys,—the *Washington*, Captain Hardy,—the *Lee*, Captain Brad-dock,—and the *Bulloch*, Captain Hatcher;—and a detachment of artillery with two field-pieces, under Captain Young, I put on board a boat. With this little army we embarked at Darien, and last evening effected a landing at a bluff about a mile below the town, leaving Colonel White on board the *Lee*, Captain Melvin on board the *Washington*, and Lieutenant Petty on board the *Bul-loch*, each with a sufficient party of troops. Immediately on landing I dispatched Lieutenant-Colonel Rae and Major Roberts, with about one hundred men, who marched directly up to the town and

¹ The following is the order in detail:—

“HEAD QUARTERS FORT HOWE.

15th April, 1778.

A Detachment of three Field Officers, 6 Captains, Eighteen Subalterns, twenty four Sergts, two Fifers, 6 Drummers, and Three Hundred rank and file by De-tail from the line, also a Detachment of Artillery with two field pieces, to be in readiness to march early to-morrow;—each man with 50 rounds of Ammunition and 6 Days Provisions. This Party are to carry no Baggage except Blankets.

By order of the Colonel Commanding

JOHN HABERSHAM, *Brigade Major.*”

See MS. Order Book of Colonel Elbert.

made prisoners three marines and two sailors belonging to the *Hinchinbrooke*.

It being late, the galleys did not engage until this morning. You must imagine what my feelings were to see our three little men-of-war going on to the attack of these three vessels who have spread terror on our coast, and who were drawn up in order of battle: but the weight of our metal soon damped the courage of these heroes, who soon took to their boats, and, as many as could, abandoned the vessels with everything on board, of which we immediately took possession. What is extraordinary, we have not one man hurt. Captain Ellis, of the *Hinchinbrooke*, is drowned, and Captain Mowbray, of the *Rebecca*, made his escape. As soon as I see Colonel White, who has not yet come to us with his prizes,¹ I shall consult with him, the three other officers, and the commanding officers of the galleys, on the expediency of attacking the *Galatea*, now lying at Jekyll." [Island].

Seeing the preparations made for her capture, the *Galatea* took counsel of her fears and departed. This gallant exploit inspired the troops, and was hailed by General Howe as a good omen of the success which he believed would crown his demonstration against Florida.² The stores acquired with these vessels were most opportune.

¹ These prizes, by direction of Colonel Elbert, were conducted to Sunbury for safe-keeping, and were there placed in charge of Major John Jones.

See MS. Order Book of Colonel Elbert.

² On the 13th of May, 1778, at Fort Howe, General Howe published the following complimentary order:—

"The General thinks proper to express in public orders how highly he approves the conduct of Colonel Elbert in the late Expedition against the Enemy at Frederica, and with equal pleasure applauds the spirited behaviour of the Officers and Men both of the Galleys and of the Army who were upon that Command. This he would certainly have done earlier, but his absence from the Army, and the hurry he has been in since his arrival, deprived him until now of that satisfaction."

See MS. Order Book of Colonel Elbert.

Informed of the presence of the American forces at Fort Howe, General Prevost paused in his movement, and busied himself with repairing his defensive works on the rivers St. Mary and St. John, with mounting guns at Fort Tonym, and with maturing plans for the protection of East Florida. Neither at St. Mary nor at Fort Tonym, however, did General Howe encounter any serious resistance from the enemy. Prevost prudently withdrew his forces from his advanced posts, and covered the approaches to St. Augustine. From their position on Alligator Creek Colonel Clarke gallantly but vainly attempted the dislodgment of the English regulars and Loyalists. It was evidently the intention of the British general to offer no determined opposition until he had enticed the Americans as far as the river St. John.¹ There he hoped to turn upon them and inflict severe loss, if not utter annihilation. Howe's command was by this time in a wretched and despondent plight. A malarial region, intense heat, bad water, insufficient shelter and salt meat so impaired the health of his troops that the hospital returns showed one half the men upon the sick-list. Many had been left at Fort Howe, incapacitated by disease. Through lack of forage thirty-five horses had perished and those which remained

¹ Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Habersham, who was then serving with Colonel Elbert, writing from the "Camp on the South side of Satilla River," under date 17th June, 1778, says: "We are now, a part of us, on the south side of Satilla, within 15 miles of Fort Tonym. . . . Genl Howe with the Carolina Brigade will be here this evening, and the Governor with the Militia was on last Tuesday at Read's Bluff, so that I hope we shall very shortly be able to give a good account of Col Brown and his Scout, unless he should prudently make his escape to his good Friends the Red Coats, who, I fancy, will hardly risk a Battle on this side of St. Johns. . . . Colonel Elbert is hearty. He frets a little on account of Howe's and the Governor's tardiness."

From Fort Tonym, on the 5th of July, 1778, he writes: "The Governor and the Militia are to join us to-day. I hope the Captain and Major General will lay their heads together so that we may go on or return, for I am tired of staying here."

To the courtesy of William Neyle Habersham, Esqr., of Savannah, am I indebted for access to the original letters from which the above extracts are made.

were so enfeebled that they were incapable of transporting the cannon, ammunition, provisions, and baggage of the army. The soldiers were in large measure dispirited and distracted. The command was rent by factions, and there was no leading spirit to mould its discordant elements into a harmonious and an efficient whole. Governor Houstoun, remembering the powers conferred by his executive council, refused, with his militia, to receive orders from General Howe. Colonel Williamson's troops would not yield obedience to a Continental officer, and Commodore Bowen insisted that the naval forces were distinct from and independent of the land service. Thus was the General compelled to rely mainly upon the Continental troops of Colonels Elbert and Pinckney. Had a masterly mind been present, quickly would these ridiculous and unpatriotic factions have been consolidated; rapidly, by stern orders and enforced obedience would the army in all its parts have been unified and brought into efficient subjection. But there was no potent voice to evoke order out of confusion,—no iron will to dominate over the emergency. General Howe simply accepted the situation as he found it, and discouraged by perplexing delays, appalled by the sickness of the troops, embarrassed by the want of coöperation among subordinates, the lack of stores and the inefficiency of the transportation department, and uncertain as to the future, convened a council of war at Fort Tonym on the 11th of July, to pass upon the expediency, if not the necessity, of abandoning the expedition. That council having resolved that its further prosecution was impracticable, the troops were, on the 14th of July, 1778, ordered to return to their former stations.¹ Thus for the third time was the hope of the reduction of St. Augustine and

¹ The following is the order published by General Howe upon the termination of the campaign:—

“CAMP AT FORT TONYN, 14th July, 1778.

Parole, Savannah.

The General leaves the Army to day. He parts with it with reluctance and

the dispersion of the British forces in East Florida relinquished. The most that can be said in favor of this campaign, with its lamentable lack of preparation, want of management, disagreement between commanders, surprising mistakes, inexcusable delays, vexatious disappointments and fruitless expenditure of men and munitions, is that it retarded the inroads of the enemy. This suspension of hostilities however was of short duration.

In the fall of 1778 Lord George Germain resolved to transfer the theatre of active warfare from the Northern to the Southern provinces. His hopes were fixed upon the early conquest of Georgia and South Carolina. For the accomplishment of this purpose General Augustine Prevost—then in command of East Florida—was instructed to invade Georgia from the south: and, having captured Sunbury,—a seaport of considerable wealth and importance—he was ordered to move upon Savannah. Colonel Archibald Campbell, sailing with a formidable force from New York, was to supplement this demonstration by a direct attack upon the commercial metropolis of Georgia. Thus caught between

from no other motive than to make those provisions at proper places necessary to its accommodation. He embraces this opportunity to testify how highly he approves the Conduct both of Officers and Men whom he had the honour to command. The readiness with which the Officers received orders, and the punctuality with which they executed them, gave pleasure to the General, and did honour to themselves. The cheerfulness with which the Men supported a long and fatiguing march under a variety of unavoidable yet distressing circumstances, gives them an undoubted claim to the characters of Good Soldiers, and is a happy presage of the service they will in future render to the Glorious Cause in which they are engaged. Commandants of Brigades will take care that this order be made known both to Officers and Men.

N. EVELEIGH, Col: & D. A. G."

See MS. Order Book of Colonel Elbert.

The above order was evidently intended for the troops serving upon the Continental establishment. It could scarcely, in all fairness, have been addressed to the militia and the naval forces.

the upper and the nether millstone, it was believed that Georgia would speedily and surely be ground down into absolute submission to British dominion. The two detachments sent forward by General Prevost,—one by sea, conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Fuser and ordered to reduce Sunbury, the other led by Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Prevost, penetrating by land and commissioned to devastate the lower portions of Georgia,—after forming a junction at Sunbury, were directed to take the town of Savannah in reverse, thus coöperating with Colonel Campbell who was expected at the same time to attack from the north. Through a want of concert in action these Florida columns failed of their objective. Opposed by Colonels Baker and White and General James Screven, and resisted by Lieutenant-Colonel John McIntosh, commanding Fort Morris at Sunbury—all acting under the orders of Colonel Elbert, who had taken post at the Great Ogeechee crossing and fortified that position with the intention of delivering battle there if the enemy succeeded in penetrating so far—Prevost and Fuser, failing to effect the contemplated junction, abandoned the siege of Sunbury, and retreating upon Florida, did not unite with Campbell in his attack upon Savannah.

By the 27th of December, 1778, the fleet transporting the expeditionary force under the command of that capable officer had crossed the bar and lay at anchor near the mouth of the Savannah River. General Howe hastily concentrated all his available forces for the defense of the capital of Georgia. At day-break on the morning of the 29th, the first division of the British army—composed of all the light infantry, the New York Volunteers and the first battalion of the 71st regiment, and led by Lieutenant-Colonel Maitland—effected a landing in front of Girardeau's plantation. Thence a narrow causeway about eight hundred yards long and with a ditch on each side, led through the swamp and rice-fields to Girardeau's residence, which stood upon a bluff some thirty feet above the level of the river delta. Rushing forward

the enemy quickly succeeded in dislodging the small American party, under Captain Smith, which had been detailed to hold this position, and scaling the bluff gained possession of the high ground. This accomplished, the approach to Savannah was facile. Ignoring the strategic importance of this locality, and disregarding the earnest entreaty of Colonel Elbert that Brewton Hill—or Girardeau's Bluff as it was then called—should be fortified and defended to the last extremity, General Howe contented himself with posting only forty men there, and disposing his army in the vicinity of Savannah awaited the advance of Colonel Campbell. The British outnumbered the American forces. General Howe formed his line of battle across the road leading from Brewton Hill and Thunderbolt to Savannah, at a point about eight hundred yards distant from the gate opening into Governor Wright's plantation. One brigade—consisting chiefly of the regiments of Colonels Huger and Thompson, and commanded by the former—was stationed on the right. The other brigade—composed of portions of the first, second, third and fourth battalions of Georgia Continentals, and under the command of Colonel Elbert—was posted on the left, its right resting upon the road and its left extending to the rice-fields of Governor Wright. Behind the left wing of this brigade was the fort on the Savannah River bluff. The town of Savannah, encircling which were the remains of an old and abandoned line of intrenchments, was in the rear of the army. A few field-pieces were disposed at advantageous points. Although informed by Colonel George Walton, who with one hundred Georgia militia was posted on the South Common behind the right of the American line, that there was a private way through the swamp, by means of which the enemy could pass from the high grounds adjacent to Brewton Hill and gain his rear, and although urged by him to have this approach properly guarded, General Howe neglected to attend to the matter, and thus committed another fatal error in the conduct of this important affair.

No position more apt for defense could have been selected in the entire neighbourhood than the bluff at Girardeau's plantation.¹ A regiment there embodied, with a few pieces of field artillery advantageously distributed along the brow, would have utterly shattered the advancing column of the enemy moving along a narrow rice-dam nearly half a mile in length, and with marish and impracticable grounds on either hand. The disparity between the contending forces rendered it all the more obligatory upon the American general to have taken advantage of this locality. It was the key to Savannah. Repulsed from this landing place and defeated in the effort to obtain a base of operations here, the acquisition of Savannah would have proved to Colonel Campbell a difficult problem. Colonel Elbert realized this fact, and pressed it upon the attention of General Howe. He offered with his command to hold Girardeau's bluff against all comers. We marvel at the apathy and the negligence exhibited by the commander of the American forces.

It lies not within the compass of this hour to recount the incidents of an engagement which quickly culminated in the capture of the capital of Georgia, the loss of valuable stores and the defeat of the Revolutionists. Attacked in front and rear the patriots soon gave way. When the retreat was sounded a panic ensued and the Americans fled, as best they could and in a confused manner, through the town. Before the retiring army gained the head of the causeway over Musgrove's swamp,² west of Savannah,—the

¹ Judge Charlton, in his *Life of Major-General James Jackson*, (Augusta, Georgia, 1809,) says: "The eye of a military man would at once have seen the importance of the Hill at the extremity of the causeway: it was the Thermopylæ of Savannah." p. 13.

² This swamp, at a later date constituting a part of the Springfield plantation, and now so thoroughly drained, was then boggy, filled with brambles, and an almost impenetrable morass. It was here, on the morning of the 9th of October, 1779, that the assaulting columns, led by Count D'Estaing, encountered insuperable obstacles and frightful loss.

only pass by which a retreat was practicable,—the enemy secured a position to interrupt the crossing. By extraordinary exertions Colonel Roberts kept the British in check until the centre of the army made its escape. The American right flank, being between two fires, suffered severely. The Georgia militia, under Colonel Walton, who, shot through the thigh, fell from his horse and was made a prisoner, were wholly killed, wounded or captured. The left, under the command of Colonel Elbert, continued the conflict with such pertinacity and gallantry that a retreat by the causeway became impracticable. That officer, therefore, attempted to lead his troops through the rice-fields lying between the Springfield causeway and the Savannah River. In doing so he encountered a heavy fire from the enemy who had taken possession of the causeway and of the adjacent high grounds of Ewensburg. Reaching Musgrove Creek, Colonel Elbert found it filled with water, for the tide was high. Consequently, only those of his command who could swim succeeded in crossing; and this they did with the loss of their arms and accoutrements. The others were either drowned or captured. Being an expert swimmer, Colonel Elbert made his escape, and retreated with the remnant of the army into South Carolina. Southern Georgia, bereft of her defenders, was quickly overrun by the enemy, who exacted tribute the most stringent.

Sunbury having fallen, and his arrangements for the occupation of all important posts along the right bank of the lower Savannah having been completed, Colonel Campbell resolved to push a column into the interior and finish the subjugation of the State by the capture of Augusta and the intimidation of the adjacent region. In his advance he was confronted by Colonels Elbert, John Twiggs, and Benjamin and William Few. They were not strong enough, however, to defend the crossing at Brier Creek. Disappointed in the assistance which they expected to receive from Colonels Williamson and Clarke, they retired slowly, skirmishing with Colonel Campbell's column as it moved upon Augusta. Upon

its appearance before that town, the Americans there posted retreated across the Savannah River, and Augusta, without a struggle, passed into possession of the King's troops. This advanced position Colonel Campbell did not deem it prudent to hold, except for a little while. Warned by the rapidly increasing forces which General Benjamin Lincoln, newly arrived, was concentrating at Purrysburg and Black Swamp, he concluded to retire upon Ebenezer and Savannah. During this retrograde movement he was pursued by General John Ashe, with twenty-three hundred men, as far as Brier Creek. There this North Carolina general halted, and encamped in the angle formed by that stream and the Savannah river. With this command Colonel Elbert was present.

At a council of war convened by General Lincoln at General Rutherford's headquarters at Williamson's plantation in Black Swamp, on the 1st of March, 1779, it was resolved that all available troops should be rapidly concentrated at General Ashe's camp, preparatory to an early and onward march for the recovery of Georgia. That officer announced his position as secure, and stated that his only need was a detachment of artillerists with one or two field-pieces. This want was recognized by General Lincoln, who ordered Major Grimké, with two light guns and a requisite number of cannoneers, to proceed to his assistance.

Advised of General Lincoln's intentions, Colonel Campbell determined by a quick and unexpected blow to defeat the contemplated concentration of the American forces, and to frustrate this plan for circumscribing the King's troops in their occupation of Georgia soil. He resolved at once to dislodge General Ashe. Major McPherson, with the first battalion of the 71st regiment, some irregulars, and two field-pieces, and Lieutenant-Colonel Prevost, with the second battalion of the same regiment, Sir James Baird's corps of light infantry, three grenadier companies of the 60th regiment, Captain Tawes' troop of light dragoons, and about one hundred and fifty men of the Florida rangers and militia, were de-

tailed for this service. Well did they perform the duty to which they were assigned. The command of General Ashe had been so much reduced by details that on the day of the engagement it did not exceed eight hundred men present for duty. Many of these were poorly armed and inadequately supplied with ammunition. The lack of circumspection and the want of preparation which characterized the conduct of the commander of the Americans on this occasion excite our surprise and merit severe criticism. The enemy had reached his vicinity before he was assured of any hostile approach. Hastily forming line of battle in three divisions,—the right under Colonel Young, the centre under General Bryant, and the left, consisting of sixty Continental troops, one hundred and fifty Georgia militia, and a field-piece, under the command of Colonel Elbert assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel John McIntosh and Major John Habersham,—General Ashe advanced to a position about a quarter of a mile in front of his encampment and there awaited the enemy's attack. His left rested upon Brier Creek, and his right extended to within eight hundred yards of the Savannah River swamp. When within one hundred and fifty yards of the Americans, and at four o'clock on the afternoon, Colonel Prevost opened the engagement with his artillery and pressed forward. Ashe's centre, which was thrown a little in advance, did not withstand the shock even for a few moments. It broke and fled in wild confusion. The right also, so soon as it was pressed, followed suit. The left alone remained, and under the valorous leadership of Colonel Elbert fought so stubbornly that Prevost found it necessary to order up his reserves to support his right, which was confronted by this small but gallant body. Notwithstanding the great disparity in the numbers engaged, Elbert prolonged the conflict until nearly every man of his command was either killed, wounded or captured. The fugitives from the American centre and right sought shelter in the deep swamp bordering upon the Savannah River. Such of them as escaped the pursuit of the en-

emy and could swim, crossed to the Carolina shore. Many were drowned in the attempt. Colonel Elbert,—whom Colonel Prevost in his report designates as one of the best officers in the rebel army—twenty-seven other officers and two hundred privates were taken prisoners. One hundred and fifty Americans were killed upon the field and in the adjacent swamps, exclusive of such as were drowned in attempting to save themselves from slaughter by plunging into a deep and rapid river. Seven pieces of field artillery, a considerable quantity of ammunition, provisions, and baggage, and one thousand small arms fell into the hands of the victors. The multitude slain would seemingly claim credence for the report that in their pursuit of the fugitive Americans Sir James Baird cried aloud to his light infantry: “Every man of you that takes a prisoner shall lose his ration of rum.” When overtaken in the Savannah River swamp, not a few of the militia were cruelly bayoneted by the exultant British soldiery.

Never was encampment more injudiciously located or more insecurely guarded. Never was command held in worse plight for action. The only ray of light, mid the gloom of the whole affair, was shed by the gallantry of Colonel Elbert and his followers. This defeat at Brier Creek disconcerted General Lincoln’s plans and, in connection with General Howe’s misfortune at Savannah, materially prolonged the struggle in this department. The tradition lives that Colonel Elbert, even when surrounded by the enemy, continued to offer the stoutest resistance. Finally he was struck down. A soldier was on the point of dispatching him with uplifted bayonet, when he gave the Masonic sign of distress. It was perceived by an officer, who intervened just in time to save the life of the brave Colonel.

Doctor Joseph Johnson¹ says that while a prisoner in the Brit-

¹ “Traditions and Reminiscences, chiefly of the American Revolution in the South,” etc., p. 475. Charleston. 1851.

ish camp Colonel Elbert was treated with great respect and kindness. Offers of promotion, honors and rewards were extended, and persuasions used to seduce him from the American cause. His patriotism was proof against them all. These allurements having been repeatedly declined, an attempt was made, through the intervention of two Indians, to take his life. In his mercantile transactions Colonel Elbert had dealt largely with the Creeks and Cherokees, and his personal acquaintance with them was by no means limited. As the captain of a grenadier company, during Governor Wright's administration, he had escorted a deputation of chiefs to their homes in the Creek country. Discovering the purpose of the savages, he gave a signal which he had formerly used among them. They recognized it at once, and lowering their guns, the hired assassins came forward and extended their hands in token of amity. This dastardly attempt is not chargeable to the officers of the British army. From them Colonel Elbert, during his captivity, was the recipient only of courtesy and manly consideration. It is believed that it was suggested by lawless maulauders and loyalists infesting the region, in the punishment of whose acts of atrocity Colonel Elbert had been most active.¹

When he was exchanged in June, 1781, so thoroughly was his former command dispersed, and so completely were Georgia and South Carolina under the control of the enemy, that he waited upon the commander-in-chief and tendered his services. They were accepted by General Washington, who assigned him to duty. At the siege of Yorktown he was entrusted with the command of "the grand deposit of arms and military stores, a post of

¹ During the siege of Savannah in September and October, 1779, as we learn from a letter written by Colonel Joseph Habersham, dated "Col Wylly's Tent near Savannah, 28th September 1779," and now in the possession of William Neyle Habersham, Esqr., Colonel Elbert was held a captive within the British lines. Painful must have been his emotions, finding himself still a prisoner, and incapable of uniting with his compatriots in the brave effort to liberate his home from British dominion.

great trust and honor." Here, as elsewhere he merited and received the commendation of all. With General Lafayette he contracted a firm friendship. One of his sons he named in compliment to the distinguished marquis. Colonel Elbert continued in the military service of the United Colonies until the close of the Revolutionary War. He was, as we have seen, appointed to a Lieutenant-Colonelcy in February, 1776. On the 16th of September in the same year he was advanced to the grade of Colonel in the Continental army; and on the 3d of November, 1783, he received his commission as Brigadier-General. Subsequently he was complimented by the State of Georgia with the position of Major-General of militia.

When upon the conclusion of peace the patriot army was disbanded, General Elbert returned to Savannah and resumed his commercial pursuits. In July, 1785, by an almost unanimous vote, he was elected Governor of Georgia. In the discharge of the duties of this high station he manifested the same ability, energy, diligence, good judgment, decision of character and exalted manhood which had characterized him in other positions. Between the rivers Satilla and St. Mary a band of freebooters had established themselves. There they accumulated negroes, horses, and cattle which they had stolen from the honest and patriotic citizens of Georgia. They were a pest to the neighbourhood, defied the laws, and plundered the adjacent territory. One of the first official acts of Governor Elbert was to commission Colonel John Baker, with a sufficient force, to capture and disperse these villains, and restore the property in their possession to its rightful owners. His efforts were also directed to the pacification of the Indians who, on the northern confines of the State, "incited by disaffected and mercenary persons," were committing depredations and disturbing the peace of the region.

In acknowledgment of the universal respect and gratitude for his meritorious services to the youthful commonwealth and in the

cause of American freedom during the Revolutionary War, the General Assembly of Georgia complimented Count D'Estaing with a grant of twenty thousand acres of land, and invested him with "all the privileges, liberties, and immunities of a free citizen of the State." It was the pleasing duty of Governor Elbert, through Commissioner John McQueen, to communicate to the Count this expression of the public esteem. In returning his thanks this illustrious Frenchman said: "The mark of its satisfaction which the State of Georgia was pleased to give me after I had been wounded, was the most healing balm that could have been applied to my pains whenever they were most acute. Nothing could be more flattering than to be admitted as a proprietor in a State that has so much distinguished itself in supporting the common cause." It was his avowed purpose, with a portion of the proceeds of the sale of these lands, to erect, at the entrance of Paris, a monument "to the States," commemorative of "the glory of the King and those patriots who contributed to the epoch of liberty." The distractions in France which quickly supervened, his engagements as vice-admiral of the navy, and his tragic fate prevented the consummation of this memorable intention.

The gubernatorial career of General Elbert was honourable and prosperous.

Several times did he act as the representative of the State of Georgia in accommodating difficulties and negotiating treaties with the Creek and Cherokee Indians. Among the latter, that concluded at the Augusta Convention, held on the 31st of May, 1783, in which Georgia was represented by Governor Lyman Hall, General John Twiggs, Colonel Elijah Clarke, Colonel William Few, the Honorable Edward Telfair, and General Samuel Elbert, will be specially remembered. On that occasion eighteen of the leading chiefs and head warriors of the Cherokees were present. General Elbert's acquaintance with the Indian nations was, as we have seen, extensive, and his influence over them quite marked.

Alexander McGillivray was at one time a clerk in his counting-house.

Secure in the esteem and accompanied by the gratitude of his fellow-citizens, upon the expiration of his term of office as Governor of Georgia General Elbert was elected Sheriff of the county of Chatham.¹ Of this lucrative and responsible position was he the incumbent when overtaken by death at the early age of forty-eight years. As a soldier he was brave, active, and intelligent. Among his companions he was known as a dashing officer and a hard fighter. Never did he abandon a field which could be held by stubborn valor. Gentlemanly in deportment, handsome in person, erect and graceful in carriage, and gallant in bearing, he was magnetic in his intercourse and commanding in his influence. His social qualities were of an attractive character, and his intellectual and moral endowments of a high order. For military affairs he possessed a natural fondness and manifested uncommon aptitude. His reputation was above reproach. His benevolence was large, and his impulses were open, generous, patriotic, chivalrous and noble. He was one of those excellent and good men who, in the language of Emerson, "make the earth wholesome." By the entire community was his demise sincerely mourned, and the General Assembly of Georgia, in acknowledgment of his valuable public services and in perpetuation of his good fame, named in his honor one of the most fertile counties within the limits of this commonwealth. We conclude this sketch by reproducing from the *Georgia Gazette* the following contemporaneous notice of his death and burial:—

"Died last Saturday,² after a lingering sickness, aged 48 years,

¹ The office of Sheriff was at this time esteemed of prime dignity and moment. The tradition, inherited from the mother country, that the High Sheriff should be the best man of his county, had not then been either forgotten or ignored in the youthful commonwealth.

² November 1, 1788.

SAMUEL ELBERT, *Major General* of the Militia of this State, *Vice President* of the Society of Cincinnati, and *Sheriff* of the County of Chatham. His death was announced by the discharge of minute guns, and the colours of Fort Wayne and the vessels in the harbour being displayed half-mast high. An early and warm attachment to the cause of his country stimulated him to exert those natural talents he possessed for a military life throughout the late glorious and successful contest with ability and general approbation, for which he was promoted to the rank of *Brigadier General* in the *Army of the United States*.

In the year 1785, his country chose him, by their general suffrage, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the State, which office he executed with fidelity, and discharged its various duties with becoming attention and dignity. The appointments of Major General of the Militia, and Sheriff of this County, were further marks of the confidence of his country, whose interests he had always at heart, and whose appointments he received and executed with a grateful remembrance that his conduct through life had met the approbation of his fellow citizens. In private life he was among the first to promote useful and benevolent societies. As a Christian he bore his painful illness with patience and firmness, and looked forward to his great change with an awful and fixed hope of future happiness. As a most affectionate husband and parent, his widow and six children have great cause to lament his end, and society in general to regret the loss of a valuable member. His remains were attended on Sunday to Christ Church by the Ancient Society of Masons [of which he was the *Past Grand Master* in this State], with the members of the Cincinnati as mourners, accompanied by a great number of his fellow citizens whom the Rev. Mr. Lindsay addressed in a short but well adapted discourse on the solemn occasion. Minute guns were fired during the funeral, and every other honour was paid his memory by a respectable military procession composed of the

Artillery and other Militia Companies. The body was afterwards deposited at the family burial place on the Mount at Rae's Hall."¹

The Indian grave-mound near the confluence of Pipe-Maker's Creek and the Savannah River, which a later generation appropriated as a convenient place for modern sepulture, still stands, marking the spot where, nearly a century ago, the dust of a General in the army of the Revolution, of an honored citizen, and of a Governor of this commonwealth mingled with the ashes of the ancestors of the venerable Tomo-chi-chi. Although Rae's Hall has passed into the ownership of strangers, although his memorial stone has fallen, although soulless brambles and envious forest trees have obliterated all traces of the inhumation, the name of Samuel Elbert is enshrined in the annals of Georgia, and his memory will be cherished by all who are not unmindful of the lessons inculcated by a life of virtue, of valor, of probity, of benevolence, of patriotism, and of fidelity to trust reposed.

Thus, reviving these memories as they have been gleaned amid the lights and shadows of a remote and heroic past, and grouping them into a tribute expressive of our grateful appreciation of uncommon virtue and excellence, we offer this memorial of one who deserves high place in this Hall dedicated to the perpetuation of characters and events memorable in the history of this colony and commonwealth. Due preservation of and suitable meditation upon such recollections constitute no mean part of your mission, which, if worthily pursued, will insure to the general good, and encourage in the present a generous emulation of whatever dignified and ennobled the days that are gone.

There is a history in all men's lives,
Figuring the nature of the times deceas'd;
The which observ'd a man may prophesy,

¹ *The Georgia Gazette*, No. 302. Savannah, Georgia. November 6, 1788.

With a near aim, of the main chance of things
As yet not come to life, which in their seeds,
And weak beginnings lie intreasur'd.
Such things become the hatch and brood of time.

—CHARLES C. JONES, JR.

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

I.

THE white population of Georgia, at the inception of the war of the Revolution, did not probably exceed twenty thousand, of all ages. Governor Wright,¹ on the 20th of December, 1773, reported to the Earl of Dartmouth that there were then inhabiting the province eighteen thousand whites and fifteen thousand blacks. During the continuance of the struggle Georgia contributed to the Continental army two thousand six hundred and seventy-nine men. Such, at least, is the best information which can be obtained.²

With regard to the militia, called from time to time into the field, Major-General James Jackson, who in subordinate capacities and as a major and lieutenant-colonel, was an active participant in the entire contest, furnishes this estimate. He says that during the year 1775, and until the spring of 1776, Georgia had one thousand militiamen in service. For the years 1776 and 1777 he computes the militia in active service at seven hundred and fifty, exclusive of two battalions of minutemen of seven hundred and fifty each, a state regiment of horse two hundred and fifty strong, and three additional troops of forty men each, under the command of a major. In 1778, besides the state corps, two thousand militiamen were in the field for nearly six months. During the years 1779, 1780, 1781, and 1782 he estimates the militia constantly in service at seven hundred and fifty men. Among these was not included his own Legion, formed by order of General Greene in 1781. When to these we add many partisans never borne upon the rolls of either the Continental or the State establishment, and who depended almost exclusively upon their own resources and exertions for arms, munitions, and subsistence, it will readily be perceived that the entire manhood of the Republican element must, at some time or other, have been actively enlisted in the warlike effort to win the independence of the confederated States. Georgia—the youngest of the thirteen colonies—certainly contributed her full quota of men and resources in the achievement of American liberty.

¹ Public Record Office, London, Am. & W. Ind., No. 235.

² Lossing's *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution*, v. II. p. 631.

II.

The following is a roster of the FIRST REGIMENT OF CHATHAM COUNTY MILITIA, when Samuel Elbert was Major-General of the State forces¹;—

James Jackson, *Colonel Commanding*.
James Gunn, *Lieutenant-Colonel*.
Benjamin Fishbourne, *Major*.
Justus H. Scheuber, *Adjutant*.
Jacob Waldburg, *Clerk of the Regiment*.

LIGHT DRAGOONS.

First Lieutenant, Isaac Young.
Second Lieutenant, David Sarzedas.
Cornet, Isaac Lagardere.

ARTILLERY.

Captain, Edward Lloyd.
First Lieutenant, Thomas Elfe.
Second Lieutenant, John Wanden.

LIGHT INFANTRY.

Captain, Benjamin Lloyd.
First Lieutenant, Elisha Elon.
Second Lieutenant, Benjamin Butler.

SAVANNAH.

Captain, Frederick Shick.
Lieutenant, Joseph Welscher.

SEA ISLANDS.

Captain, John Barnard.
First Lieutenant, Robert Barnard.
Second Lieutenant, Solomon Shad.

¹ See MS. Order Book of Colonel James Jackson.

WHITE BLUFF.

First Lieutenant, John King.*Second Lieutenant*, Peter Theus.*Captain*, Josiah Tattnall.

GREAT OGEECHEE.

Captain, Robert Holmes.*First Lieutenant*, Edmund Adams.*Second Lieutenant*, Simons Maxwell.

LITTLE OGEECHEE.

Captain, David Rees.*First Lieutenant*, Benjamin Wilson.*Second Lieutenant*, James Martin Gibbons.

CHEROKEE HILL.

Captain, — — —.*First Lieutenant*, Thomas Palmer.*Second Lieutenant*, — — —.

The town of Savannah then constituted "one militia district," and Captain Shick was designated as its commanding officer. Although the war had ended, rude alarms were not infrequent. Indian tribes beyond the Alatomaha, and at other points on the confines of the white settlements, were restless and inclined to indulge in depredations and murders. Upon the evacuation of Savannah three hundred runaway slaves, who had been enlisted by the British during their occupancy of the town, refused to return to the service of their owners. Styling themselves the "King of England's soldiers," and attracting to their companionship the disaffected of their own color, they established themselves in the fastnesses of the swamps on both sides of the Savannah River, whence they sallied forth by night for plunder and butchery, to the disquietude and annoyance of the adjacent inhabitants. One of their fortified camps on Bear Creek, in Effingham County, was, in May, 1786, carried by the First Regiment of the Chatham County Militia, assisted by troops from Beaufort, South Carolina. Although many of the marauders were either killed or captured with arms in their hands, numbers escaped, who, concealing themselves in tangled brakes, continued, as opportunity occurred, their work of theft and violence. The period was, in many quarters, fraught with anxiety and apprehension. Fears were entertained of a

servile insurrection. The office of a militiaman was then by no means a sinecure, and for several years after the cessation of hostilities between England and the United Colonies the duties of the companies composing the Chatham regiment were onerous. Gradually, however, domestic peace was confirmed. In the restoration of order and tranquillity the militia of Georgia rendered efficient service.

So great was the scarcity of powder in the possession of the military authorities in Savannah, that Colonel James Jackson, on the 22d of June, 1786, apologizes for an expenditure of one hundred pounds "at the funeral of that great and good man, General Greene." In his communication to the secretary of the Executive Council he inquires: "Will Council be so good as to let me know if they approve of my conduct, for I would rather pay for that powder myself than lay under a censure for it? It was thought here by all ranks of people the least [honor] that could be shown the remains of that hero by the State of Georgia."



THE *RIGHT FLANKER*



EDITOR'S PREFACE

So far as we know, this is the only instance of a manuscript newspaper conducted by Confederate officers, while confined in any of the Northern prisons during the Rebellion.

One such, the OLD FLAG, was originated by Union prisoners, at Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas. It, like the *Right Flanker*, was in pen and ink, and after its Editor's exchange and return North, was published in *facsimile*; but the *Right Flanker* was taken to England by its staff and there printed in book form (1865) probably the only instance of the kind.

It is now very scarce, only two copies having come to our notice, and as a memento of its time possesses much interest.

We regret that after forty-five years have passed it is impossible to identify more of the personages mentioned than the few concerning whom we have made notes.

Fort Lafayette, it should be noted, was—and is, though long disused—in the Narrows of New York Bay, and was then used entirely as a prison, with a highly miscellaneous population. The Colonel Burke referred to as its commander, was the late Lieutenant Colonel Martin Burke, Third Artillery, a veteran of the Mexican war, an interesting type of the "Old Army," in which he served with credit for forty-three years, receiving the brevets of colonel and brigadier-general.



“FORT-LA-FAYETTE LIFE”

1863-1864

IN EXTRACTS FROM

THE “RIGHT FLANKER,”

A MANUSCRIPT SHEET CIRCULATING AMONG THE SOUTHERN
PRISONERS IN FORT-LA-FAYETTE, IN 1863-64

*Dedicated to them generally, and especially to the Confederate
Officers whose autographs are here given, as among
them were contributors to the “Right Flanker”*

London

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.

LIVERPOOL: EDWARD HOWELL

1865

NEW YORK

Reprinted

WILLIAM ABBATT

1911

(Being Extra No. 13 of THE MAGAZINE OF HISTORY with Notes and Queries).



FORT LAFAYETTE LIFE

THE PURPOSE IN STARTING THE "RIGHT FLANKER"—THE ANTECEDENTS OF THOSE WITH WHOM IT ORIGINATED

IN starting such a sheet as the *Right Flanker*, the purpose is to relieve the monotony of prison life, by calling into action the taste and faculties of those who are capable of contributing to its columns; instructing and amusing those who cannot, and to furnish to all who are to share the spice of excitement, which the risk of such a contraband undertaking affords, something of which, it is hoped, reference can be pleasantly made by them in after years.

It being concluded that all interested should be properly introduced to each other, it is mutually understood that the parties having the duties of the editorial staff to assume, have authority to do it as they think proper; and it occurs to them, that no plan will be more interesting than that of making each other correctly aware of their respective antecedents.

The commencement is with the oldest prisoner in the fort, the party who is to attend to the agricultural department of the *Right Flanker*.

A young Virginia farmer volunteered his services among the earliest, in the defence of his native soil, served his time out and returned home, to find the old homestead destroyed by the invaders; was denounced as a guerrilla for endeavouring to save a family relic; hunted by a detachment of some sixty Yankee soldiers, who surrounded the house in which he took refuge; with the

assistance of the ladies, kept the enemy at bay for some time but was finally captured, confined in the lower hold of a three-decked iron-clad for two months, in mid-summer, heavily ironed both hand and foot; his arrival in New York chronicled as that of the most notorious character; and delivered in Fort Lafayette as the most savage rebel as yet inside its walls.

Next in order is an adventurer from his native place, Nova Scotia, to North Carolina; piloted on that coast as long as there was anything to do in that line; since then he may have tried the sailing qualities of a Baltimore-built pilot boat, in coming up with a Yankee craft in a way disagreeable to her skipper; still he was quietly located at a New York hotel, when he was ordered to care of Colonel Burke, until efforts could be made to find something against him. As he writes a good letter to Lord Lyons occasionally, in consequence of his not having been naturalized, he is to be known as the diplomatic head of the *Right Flanker*.

Then follows the party who is to be looked to as the nautical reporter—a young Confederate officer. He is, as all agree he should be, estimated as one, if not the most brave in our gallant little navy. Eight months in Fort Warren for being proof against the temptation of money and place to forswear his allegiance to his native South, did not prevent him from taking, as it were, his life in his hand; and the indignities and suffering which he has had to bear from his captors since *he was found under the bottom of the Ironside*,¹ would be considered as nothing, if he could look back to the result, had he got just eighteen inches further down under that celebrated vessel.

Then we have a true representative of the jolly boatmen of the Alabama; he does not despair of again giving the familiar notice of his approach (the shrill note of the steam whistle) to the little

¹ The flagship *New Ironsides* at Charleston, S. C., Oct. 6, 1863. The officer was Lieut. W. T. Glassell.

family on its banks; he is here the victim of a Pennsylvanian, who was navigator of a blockade runner, but who got off by paying the captors of her to substitute for him a person who had never been on the water, except as a pilot on the Alabama river. He is evidently thinking of his man when he comes to that part of his favourite song which says,—

“The Sixteenth Louisiana charged them with a yell,
Bagged the Bucktail Rangers, and sent them all to ——.”

Another case of Yankee victimising is in a Georgian, to whom a New Yorker by adoption but Yankee by birth, having held the position of a confidential friend in the South, and who came from there with him, was intrusted with the care of a considerable amount of money. After reaching New York the result was, that not only did the Yankee practice the 'cute trick (it is not usual to use a harsher term in Yankeedom in respect of operations of the kind) of holding on to all the money, but reporting that it was intended for purchasing contraband of war, had him, who had often befriended him in Georgia, locked up here.

The appointed local item reporter with a blockade runner, in which he had considerable property, fell into the clutches of a Federal cruiser when homeward bound to the place which according to the New York papers has been, since the war commenced, “totally destroyed” at least three times, but still a pile of bricks reminds the Yankees so much of *Sumter* that, as yet, they cannot witness the ruins of the hated city. He hears that the invaders have left him without a home, but he has the satisfaction of remembering that he had his share of the glory of being one of the few who lessened their numbers so rapidly at Secessionville.¹

The Chess reporting is confided to the most quiet of the inmates of cell No. 3, who, if he had not conceived the idea of putting the

¹ S. C., June 11, 1863; a Union defeat.

machinery of a lumber-mill (which was of no use in consequence of the blockade) near Mobile into a schooner of his, would not be among us.

The Land-o'-Cakes is represented amongst us by a person who assumes the place of musical contributor. It is to be hoped that he will do justice to the romance which he attaches to his own case—from the numerous escapes he made while fighting among the rebels, to fall into the Yankee trap while in the enjoyment of ladies' society when on his way home from Dixie. In vain he tells Lord Lyons that he was passing through the Federal territory in no other than the character of an honourably discharged Confederate officer; but to no purpose: Mr. Seward has to be believed first, and it suits him to have him held as a spy.

The idea of a person who, until the breaking out of hostilities—whose whole interest lay in fast boats and large loads of cotton on the Mississippi and the Alabama—represents some half-a-dozen among the readers of the *Right Flanker*; the remainder of the number who are present is made up by a person who on account of his father having fought under the *old* Napoleon, has faith that as soon as his case is plainly represented, the younger one will take it up, the result of which will be not only his immediate release, but the winning of a bet from his English-born shipmate, who at the time of the capture of the blockade runner in which they were together, backed his opinion that the British Lion was no more afraid than the French Eagle of the Yankee scare-crow.

A silver-haired person, whose offence was the feeding of the furnaces of a blockade runner, but who rejoices in not having been guilty of doing more than declaring his intention to formally renounce his allegiance to the country which gave him birth. A Yankee who had been acting as an officer of a British steamer, seized when on the point of leaving New York on suspicion of being intended for the blockade business, and another under military

arrest, for complicity, as sergeant of a quartermaster, in defrauding the United States, completes the present party in Fort Lafayette, with the exception of one who is in close confinement on the charge of having been at the head of the rioters in New York a short time since; what is to be known of him is, that his case is the result of the taste which has too often induced young men to prefer the imaginary pleasure of life in the commercial metropolis, to the real ones of Southern hospitality. He is a Virginian.

The fine October weather continues; still, on account of the quarters allotted us having become too crowded, the heat at night is very trying in a close cell. In the eating line we get along pretty well—more than half of us rebels having means enough in the hands of the adjutant of the fort to procure something additional to soldiers' fare for ourselves and the others; and the friends of the loyal citizens—which term covers all brought here (no matter for what) who do not strictly come under the head of actual rebels or their sympathisers—are at liberty to supply them.

ARRIVAL OF FOUR PRISONERS FROM NEW YORK—THEIR ANTECEDENTS—WHAT THEY HAVE REALLY DONE, AND WHAT THE PAPERS SAY THEY HAVE DONE—WHAT SOME OF THEM THINK OF OUR CAUSE IN NEW YORK—DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONFEDERATE AND A NEW YORK PEACE DEMOCRAT: THE LATTER BELIEVES IN GOVERNOR SEYMOUR, THE FORMER HAS NO CONFIDENCE IN EITHER HIM OR FERNANDO WOOD—TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OCTOBER, 1863.

THIS week has brought quite an addition, and according to appearance an important one, to our number, as much on account of the evidence afforded of the probable course of things at the North, as on account of one of the parties having had, as a friend of the Southern cause, continual experience in

New York since the breaking out of hostilities. He is accompanied by another Marylander, of his own feelings, a New Jersey and a New York citizen, both of whom intimate that they prefer being looked upon as Peace Democrats. They shall be estimated as such; at the same time, as the idea current among us is that all who are not for us are against us, they cannot expect to be considered as having taken the higher order.

The newspapers which we are allowed to purchase (any but those advocating the war or Administration are prohibited) give all kinds of versions to their cases, more particularly as to the principal one of our Maryland friends; one of them (the papers) having it that he was in the habit of making Republican speeches while acting the part of a rebel emissary; another has him a dealer in torpedoes; a third a confidential travelling agent for Mr. Vallandigham while in Dixie; while a fourth would have him held to a strict account for having had in his office some boxes which, from their weight, must have contained something contraband. All agree as to the importance of his captured correspondence, and promise their readers rich developments. One editor, no doubt wishing to be ahead of all competitors, tells his patrons that the arrest proved to be of much greater importance than at first supposed, although, after having made enquiries at the Marshal's office, he failed to elicit anything new in regard to them.

The true particulars are noted as follows: A Yankee, who had been in the confidence of parties in Baltimore as a Virginian in the Potomac blockade business, became a Washington War Department Detective Officer, from which department he was supplied with funds for the purpose of making purchases of articles—contraband of war—from his former friends in Baltimore, and then got an introduction through them to their New York confidants, with the avowed purpose of getting assistance in procuring passage from thence to Richmond with articles much needed by the authorities there.

The plan, unfortunately for our Maryland friend, worked but too well. As soon as he had sufficiently committed himself, and the contraband articles were in his charge, the United States Secretary of War issued an order for his arrest, and instructed the officer making the arrest to deliberately deceive his prisoner by an assurance that he was merely required for an hour at a Provost Marshal's office; and he did not undeceive him until he had got him outside the limits of the city of New York.

The other Marylander comes compromised as master of the vessel which it is charged was to have taken the supposed Confederate to Virginia.

Our greyheaded room-mate was engaged by the detective to negotiate the purchase, from his New Jersey friend, of some patent fuse, also for the use of the Confederate Government. As the ideas of these gentlemen are of interest, as evidence of what is going on in this part of the Lincoln dominion, they are noted. The principal of our Maryland friends, from having held the position of a confidential Southern sympathiser from the first, and from the fact that it has been but a few weeks since he was last threatened, has more to complain of from the means resorted to in making the arrest, than from the arrest itself. He has been, as it might be said, inside the scenes ever since the exposing of a name on the *face* of a card, instead of the one upon its back, in all probability decided the fate of Fortress Monroe at the commencement of the war. It is his belief that outside of the few in New York who contend that *Southern Independence should be a right, not a concession*, we have not any friends, unless they are to be considered as such who are in opposition to the present war-making power, merely for the purpose of trying to secure the advantage of place and power to carry it on themselves. The cases of two leading New York lawyers, who but a short time since would let the "wayward sisters" go in peace, is pretty strong proof that he

is right. Our greyheaded room-mate dissents from that view, and estimates that there are many thousands prepared unhesitatingly to make peace on the basis of Southern Independence; but he believes in Governor Seymour. Our Maryland friend has no confidence in either Seymour or Fernando Wood. Our New Jersey room-mate is, like most inventors, so completely absorbed in the idea of astonishing the rest of mankind, that with the exception of claiming to be considered as an old-time Democrat, he allows little to trouble him, but the possible result of his arrest on the fate of the "endless chain of Fire," as he calls his patent fuse. He was on the point of arranging to let the Government at Washington have its advantages, for the destruction of whole rebel armies at one time; but as he and the Federal General who was to have had a share of the profit, disagreed as to the amount he was to have, he became willing to dispose of the invention to any other party; and as it turned up, a War Department detective came along as another party. The chances are very unfavourable to his realizing anything from the project, which has been his study for several years. The detective was to have secured him in a quarter of a million dollars, if his (the detective's) plan for introducing the invention into the Southern Confederacy had succeeded. Our Jersey acquaintance considers that it was not his place to require an explanation from a purchaser of his fuse as to what was to be done with it, which was quite reasonable in our opinion, as we see that his State is perfectly careless as to the use to which her soldiers are put in the prosecution of the war. They don't object to be ordered to burn a house, or take a piano belonging to their former friends in the South.

On account of our Maryland friend having become acquainted with Colonel Burke some time since, while a visitor to a Baltimore friend of his, then in charge of the Colonel for giving currency to the report that General McClellan had retreated to Harrison Landing, or from the fact that the daughters of both had been

school-mates in Maryland, or perhaps from the Colonel and himself being of the same religious persuasion,¹ the Colonel appears inclined to prefer that our Maryland friend should be the person to treat with him on the part of the prisoners in general, to which we unanimously agree. Already, from representation by him, the Colonel has been induced to give orders for the fitting up of new quarters, to which it is intended to remove some of the prisoners from each cell, thereby adding to the general comfort; and Southern friends of his in New York have been written to by him in respect to the wants of several in the way of clothing.

THE EFFECT WHICH SENDING DOWN FOUR AT A TIME HAD AMONG THE FREE WHITES OF NEW YORK—DANGEROUS TO HAVE A LIFE OF STONEWALL JACKSON IN THE HOUSE, OR TO HAVE A PACKAGE DIRECTED TO FORT LAFAYETTE.

NOTHING of special interest to us occurred this week, except as regards the case of our Maryland friend. His friends in New York have given proof that they not only desire that he should want for nothing in their power to afford, under existing circumstances, but also of their readiness to meet the suggestions made by him as to the necessities of some of his fellow prisoners. His daughter was permitted by Col. Day,² in command of Fort Hamilton, to come over to this Fort; but Col. Burke would not allow her an interview with him, in the absence of a permit from higher authority. He however has learned something of the effect caused by his arrest. It appears to have extended from the case of those who have been in the habit of visiting his office, to the domestics in the family with whom he resided—the former having become afraid to enter the office, and the latter,

¹ The Colonel was a Catholic.

² Hannibal Day, Colonel Sixth U. S. Infantry—like Colonel Burke, a veteran of the old Army, in which he served from 1823 to 1863.

in the absence of the family, would not rest easy whilst the least evidence of his sympathies remained in the house. A life of Stonewall Jackson was carried to the hayloft; all the letters and papers found in his office have been sent to the War Department. There is an extensive field for speculation as to the effect of examination of the contents of the former, as they include correspondence from a variety of persons, extending to even letters from schoolgirls; but fortunately nothing has been found as proof of his connection with any one in the Rebel States, or of his having sent goods there. He has surprised the adjutant by taking advantage of the privilege to order such of the Administration papers as he prefers, in selecting an extreme Abolition sheet, the *Tribune*, for the reason as he gives, that the Editor is an open and consistent enemy, as such, and as a fanatic an advocate of the war; while his War Democratic contemporaries are quite as much for Southern subjugation, but from being less independent and consistent, are less honourable.

While on the subject of independence in New York, it is to be noted that the proprietor of three of the principal restaurants there objected to a package containing some game, being directed in his premises to a prisoner here.

CLOSE CONFINEMENT, FOR AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE—ADDITIONAL
RESTRICTIONS ON ACCOUNT OF AN OLD KNIFE—LADY FRIEND
VISITORS—RECOLLECTIONS OF BALTIMOREANS.

THE most interesting events of the week have been the removal from Cell No. 3 to close confinement, of our friend from Georgia, and the withdrawal from the prisoners who have been removed to new quarters, of the privilege of eating their rations in their cells. The first in consequence of a charge that he had attempted to procure a life-preserving suit in order to escape, and the latter in consequence of the Colonel, while excited about this, finding a knife which he suspected had been pur-

posely gapped to be used as a saw to cut the bars of one of the cell windows. They now have to eat where, when and as fast as the soldiers do, or get no garrison fare.

As any of us who are fortunate enough to hear at all from our home ties only get what can be communicated by the half-letter sheet, per flag of truce, we congratulate our Maryland friend on the success of his daughter in procuring a pass to visit him twice a week. Her appearance is appreciated not only on account of its serving to freshen the recollection of many of us of the time we were made to feel so much at home in the Monumental City, but also on account of her frequent visits to the Fort, pleasantly reminding us that we are not forgotten by the fair sex. While upon the subject of Baltimore and its ladies, it is to be noted that a friend there has contributed to our comfort already, and our young lady friend and her companion invariably think of *us all*, when bringing delicacies with them. "God bless old Maryland."

ARRIVAL OF A DISTINGUISHED CONFEDERATE OFFICER—BOUQUETS
TO PRISONERS—COLONEL BURKE AND A PRISONER ON THE WAR
—THE STRICT LIEUTENANT.

THE events which come under our heading of historic for this week are the addition to the inmates of Cell No. 3, of a gentleman in regard to whom we all most feelingly adopt the expression (of no doubt an honest Hibernian, and who may have been a rebel) that we are "most sorry and glad" to meet, a worthy representative of him whose name alone attracts the attention of those who can appreciate true patriotism and chivalry, wherever the cause of the South is known. Our Baltimore lady friends made their appearance as usual, and we are glad to find them report favourably as to the care of them by the boatmen and the considerate attention on the part of the officers, whose place

it has been to be present at their interviews with the object of their visits. We are not indebted to them only this week, as in the windows of both Cells 2 and 3 are displayed bouquets, marks of appreciation on the part of a lady residing in sight of the Fort, of the newly-arrived rebel general and the rebel naval officer within its walls. Since our Georgian friend's removal to close confinement, our Maryland friend has been in his place as caterer for No. 3 Mess, the consequence is that between the occasions he has to make on that account, to meet the officers at their quarters, and those he makes on account of his lady visitors, he has frequent opportunities of a friendly exchange of opinion with them (the officers). In the last, the Colonel thought Mr. Davis a very able and ambitious man, but he had now attempted to do too much. Our Maryland friend remarking that, *as yet, there were no signs of the rebellion being crushed*. As a matter of course, they (the officers) are of but one opinion as to the result of the struggle, doubtless if that was other than that numbers and money are bound to succeed, some of them would not have concluded to risk their lives in soldiering. So far, with the exception of one, the junior officers appear to correctly appreciate their duty in regard to prisoners. The Colonel, on account of age, is entitled to some allowance; but we have none for the young man, who takes pleasure in making it evident that he is expert in the duties of a jailer, more especially as we have reason to believe that he cannot have been long away from his native country, where jails and jailers are so dreaded. The idea of bouquets to rebels is mortifying to his feelings, and already he complains of the extra trouble from an examination of the contents of an increased number of packages for the prisoners, even though it is caused by the approach of the general feasting time—Thanksgiving.

PAROLES WITHDRAWN—MORE RESTRICTIONS ON PRISONERS—NEW YORK ILLUSTRATED PAPERS—FIGHTING AMONG THE CLOUDS—THE HERALD—RELIABLE SHEET—BENNETT, BARNUM, AND LINCOLN.

THE fine weather, and the extra enjoyment of the good things of life which Thanksgiving Day brought, made the week pass comparatively more pleasant. We have had an addition to the inmates of No. 3, in the person of a Confederate officer captured in hospital at the surrender of Vicksburg, paroled there, and brought to New York. The newspapers clamouring for retaliation on rebel prisoners in the North, for the supposed bad treatment of Union captives in the South, the commanding General ignored his parole and sent him down here. In more than this it is evident that there is going to be a tightening of the screws, as a sentinel has been posted between us and the former inmates of No. 2 and 3, who have been removed to the other side of the Fort, having come under the ban of the Colonel on account of the old knife with the gapped edge. Our Maryland friend can't persuade the Colonel that the position in which his (the Colonel's) cook found it, was not the consequence of an effort on the part of the prisoners to make it answer the purpose of a refined steel saw, although it would not require the judgment of a person more experienced in the use of steel than from all accounts he (the Colonel) is, to ascertain that the article which has so troubled him could not be successfully used in cutting a harder substance than the beef in Fort Lafayette.

Our Maryland lady friends made their accustomed visits. In addition to how much we read in the newspapers about Grant in the neighbourhood of Lookout Mountain, we are allowed to see efforts in illustrated prints to impress us with the idea of how Gen-

eral Hooker had been fighting among the clouds. Of course the rebels are represented as in the dissolving views, and as a coincidence, we presume, Bennett of the *Herald* feels warranted in departing from his policy of not attempting to prematurely offer an opinion as to events in the future, by coming squarely out in assuring his readers that the crushing of the rebellion by New Year is a settled thing. The readers no doubt imagine that it is the next New Year that he means. Nothing of the kind, for should it be ten years until the war ceases, and Bennett lives so long, we are willing to wager that following that event an article will be noticed in the *New York Herald*, taking credit for its foresight in predicting the close of hostilities at just that time. If we were New Yorkers we would of course say, "Give us Humbug," and of course that could not be done without Bennett and Barnum were included. As rebels, we prefer Bennett and Lincoln being together.

ORDERS FOR RETALIATION—PRISONERS RESTRICTED TO GARRISON FARE—REBELS WON'T COMPLAIN IF IT WILL SERVE TO SHOW THE EXTREMES TO WHICH A COERCIVE UNION GOVERNMENT IS REDUCED—AN ADDITION TO THE PRISONERS BY AN OFFICER IN THE BRITISH ARMY, FOR HAVING LETTERS FROM REBEL LADIES—VISIT TO A PRISONER BY A UNION FRIEND: THEY HAD BEEN BETTING ON THE CAPTURE OF RICHMOND BY M'CLELLAN, AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE CONFEDERACY BY ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

THE gloomy weather of the week has accorded with our feelings, in consequence of (we presume) the clamouring by the New York editors for retaliation on rebel prisoners having had the effect of inducing the Washington authorities to order that we be deprived of the privilege to either purchase or receive any articles whatever from outside the Fort, with the exception of

writing materials, pipes, tobacco and cigars, which are allowed to be purchased on our account. Our Maryland friend and caterer for Mess No. 3, has had several interviews with the officers in regard to so unexpected a restriction, without being enabled to come to a conclusion other than that the influence of his Irish lieutenant, who has been so pointedly unfavourable to the prisoners in general, has induced Colonel Burke to make suggestions to the War Department which on account of the existing state of public feeling the Secretary of War was prompt to avail of.

The officers directly in charge of us have been good enough to induce their Colonel to ask additional instructions with regard to his orders, the only favourable result of which is that prisoners who have relatives (friends won't do) in New York are at liberty to have them furnish them with one change of under and over-clothes, and a pair of laced (not long-legs) boots. All other prisoners, whether with or without means to purchase, are obliged to accept the gratuity of the United States Government in furnishing them, the same as its own common soldiers. As soon as what remains of the abundance in the eating line from purchases on our own account at the village of Fort Hamilton, and donations by New York sympathisers, is consumed, our recourse will have to be solely to tough beef, dry bread, beans, and bad coffee. But let it come, many of us have done marching and successful fighting on still shorter rations; and if the 50,000 friends which our grey-headed room-mate says are in New York ready to avenge any special indignity towards him, are merely gently admonished of the excesses to which their most benign Government is compelled to have recourse, we rebels shall be particular not to complain, although we know that Federal prisoners were never denied the use of their own funds in the South, or to receive whatever was sent them by friends.

Our Maryland lady friends have been down as usual, and were much disgusted to find us under the new restriction, but from

having found an old United States officer to receive them, and explain matters, they went home, in hopes of its being soon removed. We are of the opinion that except the Colonel and his Irish Lieutenant, the officers on duty would prefer that matters should go on as heretofore.

The week has brought no change in favour of our comfort; the old campaigners among us having been exercising their ingenuity in making garrison fare more palatable to those unaccustomed to roughing it. Result favourable to the Rebel cause, as there is more emphatic language to be heard against their Government by those who heretofore would occasionally suggest the possibility of a restoration of the Union.

Cell No. 2 has had an addition to the number of its inmates in the person of a Lieutenant in H.M. service, and a Confederate Captain; the former captured under orders from Secretary Seward, on board of a British vessel when on the point of leaving New York for Bermuda. Charge: associating with disloyal ladies in Baltimore, and having on his person letters from them to parties in Bermuda, to be forwarded to Richmond. The latter, one of a number of the citizens of the Confederacy who were on board of a lately captured blockade runner. Some half-a-dozen others taken in company with him have arrived in the portion of the Fort to which we are now denied access, consequently we can merely ascertain that the most of them are gentlemen from South Carolina and Virginia.

Our Maryland friend has had a Union friend, with whom he has been domiciled ever since the War commenced, to visit him. It is presumed that the fact of this gentleman being a member of one of the New York Militia regiments accounts for the protracted interview he was allowed to have with a prisoner here. Our roommate came back to his cell quite pleased, as the reference was principally to amusing occurrences, such as the betting between him

and his Union friend on the capture of Richmond by McClellan, the recognition of the Confederacy by England and France, and the time when he was threatened with Fort Lafayette for expressing the opinion that Mason and Slidell should not have been arrested, by a person who afterwards made a similar threat when he expressed the opinion that they should not have been given up without a fight. His Union friend brings him also an idea as to the reason for the absence of such replies as he had been expecting to the communications sent to his friends in New York in regard to his case. It appears that they are alarmed at receiving so explanatory letters from a Fort Lafayette prisoner, fearing that the officer of the post, whose place is to read them, is interested in getting as many persons as possible implicated. . It is not so. The officers here would prefer that they should not be required to have charge of any prisoners.

Our Maryland lady friends have been down as usual, and from finding that there was no relaxation in the rules as to our treatment, have changed their views so as to relieve the conscience of one of them (the younger) in regard to being the means of putting a letter from a husband in the Fort into the hands of a Southern wife without the examination of a Federal officer.

WINTER WEATHER—GLOOMY FEELINGS BRIGHTENED BY THE *Chesapeake* AFFAIR, AND NEWS FROM THE *Alabama*—A REBEL, AN ENGLISH OFFICER, AND COLONEL BURKE AS TO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES—A CHAIR ALLOWED THE ENGLISH OFFICER.

WINTER weather has been fairly initiated this week; the night to us now is nearly fifteen hours, counting from lock-up time to the opening of the cell in the morning. During it we lose patience with every kind of games which it is in our power to engage in, and we cannot raise a laugh

at even the expatiation of the New York papers on the subject of whole brigades of rebels asking to be received within the Union lines on the *Rapidan*.

The capture of the *Chesapeake*,¹ and the late news of the doings of the *Alabama*, interest us; so does the speech of Fernando Wood in New Jersey. We wonder what his meaning was when he said: "Not another man or dollar for the prosecution of the war." Ben Wood of New York, Bayard of Delaware, and Harris of Maryland, are those *whom we estimate* as pointing to the Star of Peace.

The Confederate Captain brought here last week, having been reported by the New York papers as deserving of consideration on account of special kindness to Federal prisoners in Richmond, thought that he had better ascertain what effect such a character would have with Colonel Burke, by soliciting the privilege of procuring something in addition to the garrison fare. He failed in his purpose, as did the British officer in an effort on his part to impress the Colonel with an idea that he should not be treated as a common rebel. He has had H.M. Vice-Consul down from New York to intercede in his behalf, but without success, except as to allowing him a camp chair in his cell.

Our Maryland lady friends have not been deterred from their accustomed visits by the cold and stormy weather, and have succeeded in getting the privilege from some of the officers who are in the habit of being present at their interviews with our roommate, to bring him sufficient to constitute an ordinary lunch, to be taken during the interview.

¹ Before daylight on the morning of Dec. 7, 1863, while the steamship *Chesapeake*, Captain Willetts, was off Cape Cod, on her regular trip between New York and Portland, she was seized by John C. Braine, purporting to be a lieutenant of the Confederate navy, and fifteen men who had come aboard at New York as passengers.—Scharf's "History Confederate Navy," p. 812.

QUITE A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PRISONERS—RULES MORE STRICT
—A BRITISH SHIPMASTER CONFINED WITH NEGROES.

THIS week has brought quite an addition to the prisoners of the Fort. On our side we have a Virginia Confederate Captain from the old Capitol,¹ where he has been in solitary confinement for several months as a hostage for a Federal soldier reported to have been held as a hostage in Richmond. It now appears that it was all a mistake as to any Union soldier being ordered to be hung. (Had it been so ordered, it would have been done with despatch by the Confederate Government.) The addition to our neighbours in No. 2 is a young Georgia gentleman who was paroled from here some months since, and brought back under the late retaliatory orders from Washington. To the numbers in the other part of the Fort have been added a General and Staff of the Confederate Army just from New Orleans. The commander and officers of a Confederate blockade runner. The commander and officers of a British blockade runner, and an Irish merchant captured while passing through New York from Canada.

The rules are so strictly enforced as to keeping us in No. 2 and 3 separate from those in other quarters of the Fort, that we can only ascertain who they are by the knowledge our room-mates have of some of them personally, and the public reputation of those belonging to the Confederate service. The latter, from having been some time under Federal control in New Orleans, make less complaint of unexpected restrictions to which they have become subject, but the Englishmen take it quite hard, especially the Captain, on account of being denied the consideration due his station, to assign him quarters separate from a crew made up of (not the most select) different nations, among whom are negroes.

¹ The old Capitol prison, at Washington.

Our lady friends down as usual, and succeeded, by permission of the officer of the day, in supplying the inmates of No. 3 with sufficient fresh meat to enable them to say that Christmas brought them a variety in the eating line. The mutton chops were much appreciated on account alone of the labour and exposure occasioned the ladies in getting over the ice to the boat. We hope that Lieutenant S—n may never be so situated as to enjoy, as some of us did, a small share of the contents of that little basket. The appearance of several one-limbed Confederate officers endeavouring to get about over the ice-covered space allotted them for exercise, makes our feelings at the setting in of cold weather additionally disagreeable.

NEW YEAR—MORE PRISONERS—ANOTHER BRITISH OFFICER, AN ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY TO WASHINGTON, AND SECRETARY, CAPTURED BY ORDER OF MR. SEWARD—THE WIFE AND DAUGHTER OF THE MINISTER IN THE STATION HOUSE—SEVERAL NEW YORK MERCHANTS BROUGHT DOWN; THEY HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY AND EXPECT TO BE OUT SOON—OLD PRISONERS DON'T THINK THEY WILL.

THE commencement of 1864 has so added to the number of prisoners, that instead of about twenty two months ago, there must now be one hundred more. The latest additions have been another British officer, an Envoy Extraordinary from a Central American Republic to Washington, and his secretary, a Spanish gentleman. They are not on our side of the Fort, but we are authorised to note their cases as follows:—The Envoy came to New York to purchase arms for the use of his government, contracted with a manufacturer who was to ship them in packages of lard to Cuba (the exportation of them being prohibited). As soon as on board ship, the detective comes along, seizes the property, sends the owner, secretary and friend (the

British officer) to care of Colonel Burke, and the wife and daughter of the Foreign Minister to a police station-house, where they were kept some time.

In addition to the foregoing, we have the cases of two British subjects and one English naturalized New York merchant: charges—shipping goods to a British port under fraudulent bonds, that they should not be sent to the Confederacy; collusion with an officer of the Custom House in passing the bonds; clearance of coal for Sicily and having it landed at Nassau; and other contraband operations. They have means, and expect to get out at once. Old prisoners don't believe they can do it so easily. One of them (the old prisoners) wagers with a new comer that he won't be out in a week even if he has a couple of hundred thousand dollars at his back; it will take longer than that to ascertain how to work the wires.

THE ARRIVAL OF A FORMER NEW YORK HOTEL KEEPER, LATELY ENGAGED IN RAISING A REGIMENT OF SOLDIERS—AN ADMIRER OF LADIES PRESENTING FLAGS TO NEGROES INSTEAD OF WHITE MEN—PREVALENCE OF NEURALGIA AND TOOTHACHE: SERVICES OF A DENTIST DENIED—RUNNING THE BLOCKADE—BUTTER IN CELL No. 3.

WE have a former New York hotel-keeper, lately connected with a Federal Colonel in raising a regiment: charge—defrauding recruits of their bounty. None of the last three Englishmen come under the head of rebel sympathisers: they are favourable to the rebellion merely on account of the money they make out of it.

The late hotel-keeper acknowledges to be an admirer of the taste displayed within a few days by the leading wives and daughters of New York, in presenting a Negro Regiment with colours, and

otherwise paying them more marked attention than any white Regiment that has gone to the war; and one of the British subjects does not hesitate to say that he is an Abolitionist.

Weather very cold. Toothaches and neuralgia prevalent in Cell No. 3. Our Maryland friend and the ladies have done all in their power towards getting permission for them to send down a dentist to operate in the presence of an officer: which privilege was denied.

Since restriction as to food, our young lady friend evinces a taste for the contraband by having butter in small pieces for placing in her father's pockets whenever the officer of the day is not watching, and her father is eating his share of the contents of her little basket. Occasionally we get other palatable morsels in the same way. Lady friends of some of the prisoners, not knowing that doing so was forbidden, sent fowls and other eatables down for the New Year dinner. It was ordered that they be added to what was specially furnished on account of the Yankee anniversary for that meal, which was required to be partaken of at a general table with the soldiers. Most of us in Cells 2 and 3, as well as others, preferred to let our appetites sharpen, in accordance with the feeling in consequence of such an expedient to mortify us.

INTERESTING READING—CONTENTS OF A REBEL MAIL, WHICH AFFORDS THE FIRST IDEA TO SOME OF THE PRISONERS AS TO THE CAUSE OF THEIR ARREST—ONE OF MR. SEWARD'S DESPATCHES AMONG REBEL PRISONERS IN FORT LAFAYETTE AND BALTIMORE REBEL LADIES—MORE LADY VISITORS TO THE FORT—"THE BONNIE BLUE FLAG," AND "I LOVE OLD DIXIE, RIGHT OR WRONG," BY PRISONERS.

WE have quite interesting reading matter just now in the contents of a Rebel mail, as published in the newspapers, a portion of which explains the cause of the Irish merchant being sent down. There is no doubt of his being a sympathizer, and it looks very much like that he has a taste for the adventures of the blockade business.

We have been most absorbed in the contents of a copy of a despatch of Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons, received by our friend the British officer here, for associating with disloyal Baltimore ladies. It is quite a lengthy document, covering four pages of what it is to be presumed is his diplomatic post paper, as it is larger than any we have seen for a long time. According to the amount of writing it is a most formidable document, but all that appears as substance, is an evidence of the Secretary's desire to frighten our young friend, and for ever deter him from becoming a victim to the influence of the bewitching Rebel ladies of Baltimore. He is informed that before there is time for carrying into effect suitable measures for bringing to justice his Baltimore associates, his case cannot be further entertained; and that he (Mr. Seward) will have pleasure in finding that in the meantime Her Britannic Majesty has deemed an officer so guilty as unworthy to carry her commission.

We are not so much surprised at learning his views as to pun-

ishment for associating with Baltimore Rebel ladies, as Mr. Seward would doubtless be if he was aware that a complete copy of his despatch was subject to their criticism in a very few days after it was written. We trust that it reached them in time to serve a good purpose.

The holiday season appears to have brought an increase of lady visitors to the officers of the garrison, and occasionally some are included whose object evidently is to have it to say that they had ocular demonstration of the appearance Rebels in prison make, especially, we presume, young good-looking Generals.

Without denying the right of some of us to special admiration, the aggregate of gallantry is such that whenever either of the Generals are called for by the officer of the day, while there are ladies in the Fort, especially when the band is on the parapet, we all make ourselves visible. We cannot however appreciate the taste of having us brought out from our comfortable fire by "Dixie" from the band, to be immediately followed by "Yankee Doodle," and shall therefore continue to cultivate our voices by rendering "The Bonnie Blue Flag," and "I love Old Dixie, right or wrong," for the benefit of our Yankee lady visitors.

EXCITEMENT IN CONSEQUENCE OF A VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO PASS
BEFORE BEING EXAMINED—MORE LOYAL CITIZENS BROUGHT
DOWN AS PRISONERS—ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AS TO VISITORS—
THE BLOCKADE RUN WITH GREENBACKS FOR PRISONERS—
TRADING THEM WITH YANKEE SOLDIERS—SUCCESSFUL
STRATEGY IN GETTING NEW CLOTHES.

FOR the first time since the excitement about the supposed attempt to escape by our Georgia friend (who is still in close confinement), and the shock to the nerves to Colonel Burke, from finding the old knife with the gapped edge, we have had, what we have all been wishing for, another excitement in the Fort. It has

arisen from a report having reached the commander of the large number of United States armed vessels which have been engaged in blockading the harbour since the case of the *Chesapeake*, against vessels leaving, as she did, with rebels on board, that a steamer was attempting to get by the fleet and forts without submitting to search. The Revenue cutter at Staten Island signalled—in answer, all the Forts beat to quarters immediately. The guns of the vessels were run out double-shotted. Around us the excitement was intense, prisoners being driven in and locked up hours earlier than usual. We thought of Rebel rams, and all that kind of thing, but it was only a vessel, the captain of which was not aware of the new regulations of the port.

The second week of the new year has brought us hardly anything new. The weather continues extremely cold, which we regret more on account of our lady visitors than ourselves, as we have free access to a pile of good coal, and the cells are so crowded that the want of fresh air at night is most felt. The additional responsibilities to Colonel Burke, since our last, have been a custom-house officer and three other defrauders of the United States Government. The four worthy Unionists have been given select accommodation, in close confinement. The Visiting officer reports that they were captured when on the point of leaving the country. Charge—altering receipts, by substituting by figures greater for a less number of packages furnished by them as Naval contractors. In addition to them, the number in other parts of the Fort have been increased by parties who, under late laws as to defrauders of recruits, are termed “bounty jumpers,” which as understood here means those who procure substitutes and recruits, have them mustered into service and retain their money. The reports which reach us across the sentinel lines are, that one of the two who are here already had taken advantage of a sister-in-law, the other of a mother-in-law; and that there is one to come down, who by holding on to a bounty was cheating his grandmother.

The addition to the number of loyal citizen prisoners having increased the applications for ladies to visit their relatives in the Fort—and as there are (as it appears) more than the officers on duty can attend to and strictly carry out the rules in regard to them—the General in Chief Command has given orders to have withdrawn the privilege to our young Maryland friend to visit her father twice a week, so as to place her on a footing with the Yankee ladies who have husbands in confinement; the consequence being that under the new rules, our lady friends have to make applications anew each time they require permission to enter the Fort.

Rebellious as our lady friends had a good right to be heretofore, the new restrictions have left no grounds whatever for scruples; the consequence has been that through our young Maryland Confederate, the inmates of Nos. 2 and 3 have become possessed of means so that under an arrangement to give a Yankee soldier a dollar greenback in exchange for a pound of butter or sugar, and in proportion for other articles equally appreciated under existing circumstances, they are once more within reach of something better than what the most benign government on earth considers good enough for rebels.

Our pickets and scouts are out the moment the doors of our cells are open in the morning, to pick up whatever our Yankee guardians have thought proper to leave at appointed places during the night, as value for greenback money passed to them, while on duty in front of the cells the previous evening. We cannot complain if it occurs that the result of our outlay is to be seen in a staggering soldier—we do not complain whenever it has the additional effect of getting them in the guardhouse, but would of course, prefer that it should be the Libby prison instead.

Yankee garments are to be seen in wear, by those with the most limited wardrobes, when the orders came from Washington not to permit prisoners who had no relatives in New York to get anything

outside what the garrison furnished. The greater number of Southerners have felt little inconvenience in that respect. Our Maryland friends put in practice strategy which even in the course of the present war cannot have been thought of by any one else, by which some gentlemen were saved the mortification of valuing on the gratuity of enemies. It was strictly according to rule for a prisoner having relatives in New York to order for his use a change of under and over-clothes, stockings, and shoes, but the rule did not guard against the contingency of the articles being for the use of others, or of exchanges on account of misfits, in doing which an old wornout garment might be sent to make a package supposed to contain new articles returned to get fitting ones in their stead, and as it has turned out, our Maryland friend could not be fitted until after several trials.

MORE PRISONERS—FINANCIAL OPERATION BETWEEN A PRISONER AND THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES—THE (SUPPOSED) HEAD OF THE SOLDIER-DEFRAUDING FRATERNITY BROUGHT DOWN—HE IS THOROUGHLY UNION, AND ELECTED A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, WHO IS TO GET HIM OUT—INVITATION TO YANKEES FOUND IN THE SOUTH WHEN THE WAR IS OVER.

THERE is not much to give under the historic head this week. A couple of supposed rebel soldiers and two more bounty-jumpers have been added to the number in the other part of the Fort.

A bounty-jumper was taken to New York under an arrangement that his father was to endorse his note in favour of the United States for the sum of which he had defrauded the widow of his brother by not giving but a share of the money he had received as bounty for her son; but it appears that the old man thought better of it, and let his son be remanded to board at the expense of his

Government for a while longer. One of the jumpers brought down is really a character in himself, a Simon pure Yankee, with the New York polish, which we presume he must have got in the second-hand furniture line, as he reports such as his legitimate business. He is one of those always-smiling fellows, can't be made to notice the many attempts at amusement at his expense by his rebel room-mates, who appear to have no hesitation in showing that they appreciate him even less than the others of his tribe, which is on account of his evident desire to assume among them the character of a Union lecturer. He is confident of not only getting a release, but also a clearing-up of his character as soon as a certain Member of Congress—who he says is indebted to his influence for his election—is properly made aware of the particulars of his case. He is particularly interested in endeavouring to prove that the time must come, when the war is over, in which he can meet acquaintances in the South same as he did heretofore; and in moralising with our Virginian rebel-captain, presumed without fear of dissent on his part, that as he, as a Yankee, would not hesitate to invite the now rebel-captain to the hospitalities of his house when peace comes, neither would the captain think of the present time when once more in the enjoyment of peace. His smile was not in the least changed when he heard that, as his countrymen had left his rebel-captain acquaintance without a home, he could not possibly be invited to it when the war was over, but that it was certain that if ever he was known to be in his neighbourhood he would invite him to the limb of the first tree to which he could be hung. Still, at the close of the controversy, the Union-saver would not allow himself to believe that such feelings attached to more than isolated cases of those who are sacrificing life and property so lavishly for the avowed purpose of getting rid of the Yankee character for ever.

ARRIVAL OF A MILITARY COMMISSION FOR TRIAL OF PRISONERS—
—ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS—ORDERS FOR VISITORS TO BE
SEARCHED—OFFICERS OBJECT, ORDER WITHDRAWN—EX-
CITEMENT IN THE FORT—ANTICIPATED ATTEMPT TO RELEASE
PRISONERS—NEITHER CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS NOR EPISCOPAL
PRAYER BOOKS ALLOWED—PROCEEDINGS OF THE MILITARY
COMMISSION—HOW A NEW YORK SILVER-GREY DEMOCRAT
WANTED TO BET—WHAT A JERSEY DEMOCRAT WOULD BE
GLAD TO HEAR—DISCHARGE OF BRITISH SUBJECTS—THE
YANKEE POLICY AS TO BRITISH BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

OUR lady friends succeeded in getting a special permit, under which they made one visit this week instead of two as under the pass withdrawn. As the weather is now we are uneasy for their safety, as sometimes it is dangerous to attempt crossing from Fort Hamilton, on account of the drifting ice.

The last has been an unusually interesting week. The long looked for Military Commission arrived—made arrangements for an examination into the cases of all prisoners, with the exception of those known to be in the public service of the Confederate government, and are expected down on Monday to enter upon their duty.

The last time our lady friends came they were allowed to send, for the use of the prisoners in Cells No. 2 and 3, grace-hoops, hand-balls and some ballad music. On the day following their visit an order was issued to search all visitors to the Fort, and a report got currency that a general search of the prisoners' quarters was about to be started. The greenbacks in No. 2 were hid for a while in a rat-hole, and those belonging to No. 3 were for a time in a coal bucket. The *Right Flanker* was suitably looked after, and for two days we would trust none but our most experienced and re-

liable scouts to report as to what was transpiring. It is a great relief to find that the danger has not only passed, but that our Maryland lady friends were not the cause of raising the suspicion that something contraband had been going on. It was nevertheless feared at one time that we would have to dispense with their visits, as our Maryland friend properly objected to their being subjected to the indignity of being searched. It may have been on this account, or the fact that the junior officers declined to assist in carrying out such an order, that it was revoked, and a restriction adopted in its stead of limiting interviews between prisoners and those visiting them to strictly half an hour.

As prisoners will do, we have often speculated as to what unexpected occurrence we might possibly owe our delivery from Fort Lafayette. Confederate iron-clads, or rams from Europe, or an English or French blockading fleet were thought of, but the idea of such a thing as a premeditated attack on the Forts in the harbour by a force from New York never occurred to us. But it appears it must have to the authorities in New York and the officers here, as about nine o'clock last night we were delighted with the idea that something in the way of a real excitement had occurred. The whole garrison was beat to quarters, guns double-shotted, and pointed so as to cover every possible approach from the city or the Long Island shore. Howitzers covering the doors of the place where there were prisoners, &c. Some had it that the appearance of the much-dreaded rams had caused the excitement; others, that the long-talked of time when the Seymour men of New York would require him to make good his promise to protect them against the Lincoln despotism had arrived. But morning came for us to find that it was even a greater scare than the previous one, as at this time it all arose from the waving of handkerchiefs to some of the prisoners who happened to be in sight when a steamer passed that evening, having on board some lately released British sailors. The movement having been observed from some of the Forts, tele-

graphic notice went to head-quarters in New York, and from there Colonel Burke was ordered to prepare to repel an attack for the purpose of liberating his prisoners.

This week our Maryland friend was allowed but one interview, and that for only half an hour, with his daughter and her friend, and, having found the strict lieutenant, before alluded to, as officer of the day, they were compelled to take back a copy of a Democratic Catholic paper (*The Metropolitan Record*) to which our Maryland friend had been a subscriber for several years; and also an Episcopal Prayer Book, which they brought for a room-mate of his.

The Commissioners have entered upon their duties, but judging from their examination so far, it appears that it is to be nothing more nor less than a humbug got up for the purpose of closing the mouths of those in the United States who occasionally find fault with the locking up of people without an examination into the charges against them. The commencement has been with those captured as blockade-runners, the Commissioners knowing so little about their cases that they had to ask information from the prisoners themselves as to the name of the vessel they were on board of, and that of the one they were captured by. After being informed of which, the parties, if holding no position of importance, the question was, "Are you willing to take an oath of allegiance to the United States?" And in the cases of persons of position in the South, "Would you, in the event of the Federal army occupying the place where your family is, still adhere to the Confederate government?" In respect to the Union citizens, some of the questions have been, to our old grey-headed room-mate, "Have you ever wagered that General Lee would be in Washington by a certain time?" and to our Jersey room-mate, "Have you not been heard to say, on a railroad train, that you would be glad if the rebels would drive the whole Abolition crew out of Washington?"

Our Maryland friend has had but to acknowledge the genuineness of a communication in his name, made shortly after his arrest, to the Secretary of War, in which the ground was taken that as no charge against him more than sympathy with the cause of the South could be proven, the Government ought at least to allow him to leave the country.

The only one who has had thus far any reason to hope for result from his examination is the New York merchant who made the bet that he would not be detained here more than a week. It is nearly a month since the inmates of No. 3 had the benefit of fifty dollars in cigars from his loss of that bet, but we are duly glad that he has now a prospect. He has but a cough to complain of; and although rebel citizens were denied the services of a dentist a short time since, there is no reason why the Judge-Advocate of the Commission should not allow a Union citizen to get within reach of medical attendance by a removal to the city.

Two of the inmates of No. 3, finding in the course of their examination that the Commissioners had some knowledge of an attempted arrangement on their part by which they could have got away from the Deputy United States Marshal when being conveyed through New York previous to their being brought down here, felt justified in acknowledging that they would have been allowed to escape had they been willing to increase their offer of money. At first they thought that it was benefiting their cases to make the exposure, but after being called several times before the Judge-Advocate they have concluded that our room-mate, with the cough and a couple of hundred thousand dollars, is the only one who has the least chance of getting out just now.

The week has given us considerable that is new to talk over. Several British subjects have been released; but they were those alone who in justice should have been discharged before they were brought here, as the same evidence to their being neutrals was as

well known when they were in Ludlow Street Jail as it was when they were let go. However, it is entirely the business of their Government, if it allows the Yankee authorities to take their own time in deciding whom they are justified in holding. And it appears not to have come to the knowledge of the British Consul that the captains of Yankee blockaders do not hesitate to say that the purpose is to make all the Englishmen they capture serve at least a couple of months in prison, in order to deter them from engaging anew in the blockade trade.

REMOVAL OF CONFEDERATE OFFICERS TO ANOTHER FORT—TWO ESCAPE ON THE WAY—ANTICIPATED DEPARTURE OF TWO OTHERS FOR THEIR HOMES: ENTERTAINMENT IN THEIR HONOUR—EDITORIAL BANQUET OF THE "RIGHT FLANKER"—THE SENSATION OF THE DAY:—"BRAVES, WHO HAVE WITH STONEWALL BLED!" FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE officers comprising the staff of the General brought here some time since from New Orleans, and two other Confederate officers, were started under guard for Fort McHenry. The mail which brought information of the arrival of the staff officers at their place of destination, brought to us the welcome news that the plans of the other two to escape on the way had been entirely successful; one having relieved the guard of the care of him near the railway *dépôt* in Jersey City, and the other near the *dépôt* in Baltimore. Before starting there was something mentioned in respect to their giving parole of honour while on the train, but as it was decided by them not to come under an obligation of the kind, our friends are all right, if they can only properly disguise themselves and keep out of the way of detective officers.

The No. 3 party, who have got along so pleasantly together,

is to be further reduced shortly by the removal of two, the return of whom to their country and families will be hailed with the greatest pleasure, at the same time that the loss of their companionship will be regretted by all. We trust that their cases, and those of the two held so long as hostages for them, may be the last expedient of the kind during the war.

In view of their leaving, and the fact of our having been in possession of funds enough to give an entertainment, in conformity with the estimate in which they have been held by all as friends of the *Right Flanker* enterprise, and some Old Rye being at disposal, yesterday was availed of as an occasion suitable for our local-item reporter getting up an account of what had been in contemplation some time, but which has been delayed in hopes of our having it in our power to be better prepared for such an affair; a sensational account (*à la Herald*) of an Editorial Banquet in honour of the *Right Flanker*. The report of such a banquet appears in our local item column as follows:

“The Sensation of the Day,”

The great Editorial Banquet of the *Right Flanker*.

The Lafayette Bastile in a Blaze of Glory.

Great Concentration of Patriotism.

The Programme of the Only Way to End the War.

The Emperor of China (the owner of the Anglo-Rebel Rams)
to arbitrate.

The Knights of the Golden Circle.

Pass-word—“Cousin Sally Ann,” &c., &c.

Extract:—The Great Editorial Banquet of the *Right Flanker* at the Lafayette Bastile.—This much-talked-of and long-expected entertainment came off yesterday with great *éclat*. The company present on the occasion included the most notable and fashionable of the sojourners at that celebrated establishment.

The sentimental, and other tastes, evidenced were such that we can say, after an experience derived from an attendance at all the reunions of a similar nature which have taken place in that abode of fashion, such a treat for the admirers of patriotism has never been equalled, and as might have been anticipated, ideas were called forth which could only be looked for in an assembly of the kind. The preparations for the gratification of epicurean taste were the result of the most careful attention on the part of the caterer, whose ability in that respect had been frequently tested by similar occasions. It was generally conceded that it was out of his power to have succeeded more admirably. As usual of late the tables were furnished exclusively from the productions for which the Bastile estate has so long been famous. In fact, it might be said that every want was supplied from the establishment itself, as it became necessary to procure elsewhere but one article in the liquor line.

The Chair was most appropriately filled, and at about four o'clock the festivities commenced by a suggestion from the chairman that it would be in good taste and appropriate to the occasion to preface the regular toasts with a suitable recognition of the esteem in which those present held such an illustrious personage, and he therefore proposed the health of His Majesty *the Emperor of China*. As might be anticipated, the mere mention of the name had the effect looked for, as such a means of awakening pleasant reminiscences of home, and the cheering only subsided to give way to the band which struck up "Carry me back to old Virginia."

The senior Editor furnished the first regular toast—"The *Right Flanker*;" may its position be ever impregnable in connection with a centre, having a *Lee in front* and *the memory of a Jackson in the rear*, and may the *left rest on Southern Independence*," which brought out the most successful effort of the Musical Club in attendance in singing—

Braves who have with Stonewall bled
Braves whom Lee hath ofttimes led,
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to victory.

Now's the day and now's the hour,
See the front of battle lower,
See approach proud Lincoln's power,
Chains and slavery.

Who would be a traitor knave?
Who could fill a coward's grave?
Who so base as be a slave?
Let him turn and flee.

Who for Southern rights and laws
Freedom's sword will bravely draw,
Freeman stand or Freeman fall,
Let him on with Lee.

By oppression's woes and pains,
By our sires in dungeons chained,
We will drain our dearest veins,
But they shall be free.

Lay the base usurpers low,
Tyrants fall in every foe,
Liberty's in every blow,
Let us do or die.

Then followed "The *Right Flanker*; its principles and its policy: undying faith in our glorious cause, and the advocacy of every effort for our liberty." *Music*—"The Bonnie Blue Flag."

"May peace be the source of as much glory as the war has been, and our poets rival our warriors." *Music*—"Juanita."

"The life-drama we are now enacting: may the curtain fall

and rise no more on the same performance." *Music*—"Annie Laurie."

"The Southern Army, a band of patriots struggling for liberty; they will never succumb to Northern tyranny." *Music*—"Stonewall Jackson's March."

"Raphael Semmes, the pioneer cruiser of the Confederate Navy: may he live to triumph on the ocean while the war lasts, and to enjoy the fruits of his labour when peace is established." *Music*—"A Life on the Ocean Wave."

"The day we celebrate, as distance in the landscape lends enchantment to the view; so, in other days and other climes, we'll gladly think of you." *Music*—"Home, Sweet Home."

After the announcement of the regular toasts, and the discussion of the merits of what was intended to promote a flow of soul, the next in order were volunteer toasts, which were as follows:—

"Our Chairman, the worthy son of one of the most famous in upholding the honour of the Old Dominion in the greatest rebellion of ancient or modern times." *Music*—"Hail to the Chief."

"The Hero in the nautical exploit which, more than any other, has proved what can be expected from a navy which in infancy has the last chance for life volunteered in its service." *Music*—"The Confederate March."

"The Representatives of the Heroes to whom is entrusted the defence of our soil, the confidence of such men as have been tested at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, is not to be shaken by the trials of Fort Lafayette." *Music*—"Beauregard's March."

"The Pioneers in the Foreign Trade of the Confederate States." *Music*—"Up with the Stars and Bars."

"The right kind of Allies for the Confederacy, such as are

present from the lands of the Shamrock and Thistle. To fight its cause with pen and sword is all the privilege they want." *Music*—"St. Patrick's Day," and "The Campbells are Coming."

"The Maryland Blue Eyes, which so frequently look down upon the evidence of the struggle in which her native State has so much interest—the present Captives in Fort Lafayette." *Music*—"Maryland, my Maryland."

"Sweethearts and Wives," and "Cousin Sally-Ann," were given at the conclusion; and at about five o'clock the company was broken up—the members (including the writer) returning to their respective homes to enjoy the pleasure of reflecting that had they not been in attendance they would have lost such an opportunity as cannot be expected to occur again.

A TRIFLING ARTICLE DENIED A PRISONER—NEWS FROM THE ESCAPED PRISONERS—ONE HAS A PLEASANT TIME IN WESTERN VIRGINIA, BALTIMORE, NEW YORK, AND BOSTON, BEFORE LEAVING FOR BERMUDA—LEAVING OF TWO PRISONERS FOR FORTRESS MONROE, TO BE EXCHANGED—THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MILITARY COMMISSION CONCLUDED—THE ONLY RESULT THE TRANSFER OF A RICH UNION CITIZEN TO A NEW YORK JAIL.

NO one has been discharged yet in consequence of examination by the Military Commissioners. Our Maryland friend had an interview this week of just the half-hour with his daughter, and in consequence of the late strictness in other respects he was not allowed to receive a trifling article brought him as a birthday gift.

The principal subject of interest during the week has been the report from our friend the officer who escaped at the *dépôt* at Baltimore. When jokingly talking over the chances of escape, his room-mates suggested as a programme, to be followed in case

of success in getting away from the guard, first to assume the character of a preacher, on account of delicate appearance. Secondly, if some tracts should be within reach, to be sure and have a good supply to hand round among railway or steamer passengers. Not to omit having at all times in hand a good Abolition newspaper (the *New York Tribune*, if possible,) and campaign it so with passengers adjoining that the rebellion be crushed in not over thirty days, and that Jefferson Davis and all his followers come to the gallows as soon as possible afterwards. Then, so soon as out of danger, to insert a personal in the *Herald*, using certain cabalistic words which were on the walls of the cell, as we would be on the lookout. We are not aware of his having had recourse to the tracts, *Tribune*, speedy crushing of the rebellion, and hanging all the Rebels; but we have the personal in the *Herald*, from which it appears he went out from the Capes of Virginia in a British vessel.

The other lucky fellow, who escaped at the Jersey City *dépôt* not having been a room-mate of the editorial staff of the *Right Flanker*, failed to inform us exactly of the programme of his case: still *we know* that after relieving his keepers of all responsibility on his account, he passed quite a pleasant time in Western Virginia, Maryland, New York and Boston, before leaving for Halifax and Bermuda.

Next to the cases of our escaped friends, the two hostages have left for Fortress Monroe to be exchanged. We missed them from the spots occupied by them in our small quarters for several months of the (to us) long winter season. May all the happiness they wished for attend their arrival home.

The Military Commissioners appeared to have concluded their labours, and as we learn started for Fort Warren; the only result being the removal of our fellow-prisoner with the bad cough and the two hundred thousand dollars, to a jail in New York, from

which we hear that he is allowed to be absent nightly, by paying an officer to accompany him. We sincerely congratulate him. Prisoners may not feel for every one who is brought down here, at the same time it is invariably the case that all are glad to see any one regain liberty.

THE MILITARY COMMISSIONERS AND A CONFEDERATE ENGINEER;
THE LATTER CONTENDS THAT THERE IS A CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT, FOR WHICH HE IS MORE CLOSELY LOCKED UP—A
JAR OF OYSTERS DENIED A PRISONER.

THE last act performed by the Commissioners proved to be in accordance with our ideas as to the whole operation, on their part, being a farce. Among the number examined by them, some of whom were before them more than once, were several attached to the engine department of a captured blockade-runner. These were called up and offered their liberty provided they were willing to exercise their capacities in the service of the Government. On a proposition of the kind being made to the chief-engineer (a Baltimorean), the remark was made by him that he was already in Government employ, whereupon the officers concluded that they must have been trying a loyal citizen, and were about to order a discharge of the supposed injured party, until he informed them that it was the Confederate Government he alluded to, when he received an extra reprimand for the expression of the word Government, as applied by him, and was quickly remanded to his cell.

Our Maryland friend had a visit from his ladies (for the half hour) this week, also from a Holland friend of his, who, not knowing the rules of the Fort, brought for him a jar of pickled oysters. But strange as it to us appears, on account of our knowledge of the apparent preference which the Colonel has for him

(our Maryland room-mate), he would not allow him to receive the jar of oysters. Perhaps it is owing to the proprietor of the restaurant where the oysters were purchased, the same who some time since objected to a package of game for a prisoner here being directed to him in the place where he did not hesitate to receive the money for them.

A UNION PRISONER'S APPEAL FOR VEGETABLES—HIS RELATIVES FEAR THAT HIS MIND IS AFFECTED—HIS HOPE ON ACCOUNT OF ROTHSCHILDS' AGENT HANGING OUT THE OLD FLAG, AND HELPING TO CRUSH THE REBELLION—CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN NORTHERN CITIZENS AS TO THE STANDARD FOR SOCIETY—DIFFERENCE OF TREATMENT TO UNION AND REBEL PRISONERS.

THE interest which the past week has afforded outside, of local items and the ordinary contributions to our columns, has been in the case of our room-mate from New Jersey. For some time he, like many of us, has been suffering in health from the want of vegetable matter, and has frequently endeavoured to sufficiently impress the friends to whom he wrote with the idea that he could not possibly survive much longer under the present restrictions as to food. An unfavourable turn of feelings in mind, as well as body, induced him a few nights since to be influenced by a room-mate having a waggish taste, who suggested that an application to head-quarters for enough of vegetable matter *to smell*, instead of to eat, would be attended with success, and he therefore directed his lady friends to make such an application. As soon as they received a request from him for a "few small potatoes and an onion," they concluded that his mind had become affected, and, while under the excitement such an idea occasioned procured a permit, not for one alone as heretofore, but for three of them to visit him. The result of such a visit, under

such circumstances, can be more easily imagined than described. We are happy to say, however, that their alarm was uncalled for, as the only time our room-mate appeared at all unreasonable has been when in the expectation that in consequence of his brother-in-faith, the agent of the Rothschilds,¹ having always a large silk star-spangled banner displayed from a Fifth Avenue residence, and the fact of his having done so much in means towards crushing the rebellion, he (our Jersey room-mate) ought to receive favourable attention at the hands of the Government. Occasionally he and our New York Democratic room-mate would become excited in controversy in enlightening us rebels as to the standard of society in the Empire City: one contending that a great bridge-builder was at the head, as he had the most money; while the other granted that privilege to the man who could afford to present to the Government a steamer to catch the *Alabama*.² With these exceptions, we have found our Jersey room-mate always inclined to keep within discretionary limits, after making proper allowance for the latitude as the inventor of the "endless chains of fire" all must agree he is entitled to.

The late New York hotel-keeper, lastly (as we are given to understand) occupying a high position among the bounty-jumpers, having adopted the sick-strategy—as did our No. 3 rich Union room-mate, who is now under medical care in New York—has been allowed to order in delicacies from his lady relatives; while so strict are the rules in respect to us rebels and rebel-sympathisers, that of late our musket-carrying guardians can't operate at the rate of a pound of butter or a pound of sugar for a dollar of the green-backs which our young lady friend took so much risk in bringing us. She and her companion have been down as usual this week, and we are most happy to find that they give encouraging accounts as to efforts which are being made by the friends of the

¹ August Belmont?

² Commodore Vanderbilt.

special object of their visits towards having him turned over to the jurisdiction of a Civil Court in New York, it having been decided that he is not guilty of a military offence.

THE STRONG ARMS AND BRAVE HEARTS OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN
THE ONLY DEPENDENCE OF REBEL PRISONERS—ANTICIPATED
NECESSITY FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF THE "RIGHT FLANKER"
—REMOVAL OF SEVERAL PRISONERS FROM THE FORT, AND THE
EXISTING COPIES OF IT ENTRUSTED TO THEM—FINAL DIS-
CONTINUANCE OF IT—PUBLICATION OF FORT LAFAYETTE LIFE.

FINE March weather keeps us out of doors more than usual, and though allowed an increase of room to exercise in, we feel the confinement more unbearable than when the weather obliged us to stay more indoors. And as it is now settled that nothing favourable is to result from the examination by the Military Commission, we have nothing to look to but the holding out of our health and patience, and the strong arms and brave hearts of our fellow-countrymen.

Since four of the original inmates of No. 3, and three from No. 2, have been removed, the number of reliable Right Flankers have not only become considerably less, but in some instances the places of the friends of the enterprise are occupied by doubtful parties. It therefore becomes necessary to exercise unusual caution, in doing which the result of our efforts must naturally be lessened. This explanation is made for the information of the readers at the other side, who notice that their communications do not appear this week.

The only change among the prisoners has been in the removal of the captain and officers of a captured steamer to a jail in New York, to serve as witnesses in deciding whether a Government

transport which made the capture, or the regular cruiser which came up shortly afterwards, is entitled to the prize money.

Our lady friends down as usual, bringing the gratifying news that a friend from Washington reports that an order is out to remove our Maryland room-mate to the jurisdiction of a court in New York.

As the remaining Right Flankers are about to retire for the night, the officer of the day is in Cell No. 3, to report that early in the morning our Maryland room-mate, the three others arrested at the time he was, and our young friend who was brought here from the Capitol prison, are to be removed to head quarters. As their baggage includes some trunks well adapted for the purpose of secreting considerable bulk, and as there does not remain an effective force to get up another issue of the *Right Flanker*, it is determined that the occasion be availed of to remove the existing copies of it from Fort Lafayette. The idea, in part, in getting up such a sheet as the *Right Flanker*, having been for the purpose of interest to, and reference by, those who have been or may be inmates of Fort Lafayette, as well as to afford those who have not had an opportunity to judge correctly as to life in it, it is presumed not improbable that the interest of readers in the present extracts will be increased by an addition to explain the course in regard to persons liberated from there who have not a status under the cartel for exchange of prisoners between the United and Confederate States authorities.

It is therefore thought proper first to refer to the cases of the five who were left in charge of the last issues of the *Right Flanker*, which is done as briefly as possible to be correct and just. After removal from the charge of the officers in command of the Fort, the five prisoners alluded to were taken to the Major-General commanding the department. The one whose parole had been ignored when he was sent down was allowed the privilege of it

again; the other four were sent to a jail, subject to the United States civil authorities, from which, after some detention, they were released by entering into bonds for appearance before a United States Commissioner, who, after hearing all the evidence in possession of the Washington authorities, ordered a final release on the grounds (as near as understood) that, according to law, parties *merely agreeing to aid* another, who did not actually intend to commit an offence (and the Detective swore that he did not), were not amenable under any known statute. The result, of course, was taken advantage of as soon as possible by the released parties—the captain returning to the command of his vessel; the patent fuse manufacturer to look up the best customer for his invention, he being again at liberty (he had always been willing) to let the highest bidder have it.

The chief of the Silver-Grey Democrats (as he, in the Fort, termed the party of which he claimed to be the head), from appearances assumed the place of a martyr, although he had not a single friend or relative to make him a visit during an incarceration of five months; and the Marylander became free to renew his business as a merchant.

It is not known how the movements of three of the four finally resulted, but a special interest in the Marylander, on account of the peculiar result in his case, causes it to be noticed in "Fort Lafayette Life." Soon after getting his liberty, without coming under obligations to the United States Government, he was so unlucky as to become compromised again in efforts to save a friend from conscription into the Yankee service, making an immediate departure for neutral territory necessary.

Only those who have endured the trials and hardships of a prison life, can best appreciate the blessings of personal liberty. And therefore the meeting of exiles in a friendly country ¹ was the

¹ England.

occasion of congratulation and the source of much interest. Especially when, as in the present instance, several were of the editorial staff of the *Right Flanker*. Many of the exiles had been confined in various Federal prisons; some had just arrived from Fort Lafayette, and brought tidings of the remaining editorial corps yet within its gloomy cells.

One of them, a captain, had plunged boldly into the sea from its walls, upon a dark and stormy night, with a life-preserver around him which his friends had procured in a contraband manner, and having floated with the tide, landed on the beach some three miles distant from the Fort. Another, a contributor to the *Flanker*, had been released, after his long incarceration, as the Secretary of State and Her Majesty's representative had at length arrived at the conclusion that he was innocent of the charges made against him.

It was then determined to publish extracts from the *Right Flanker*, as affording a correct knowledge of prison life in the United States during the present war, and properly enlightening the public at large in regard to subjects of special interest to them.

THE END









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